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## **Gas South Donates \$500,000 to Support Florida Schoolchildren**

**TAMPA, Fla. (October 21, 2022)** – Gas South, one of the leading natural gas marketers in the Southeast, has contributed \$500,000 to Step Up For Students, helping more than 65 Florida schoolchildren attend a K-12 school that best fits their learning needs.

This is the first year that Gas South has partnered with [Step Up for Students](#), a nonprofit organization that helps manage the [Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program](#). This income-based scholarship initiative is funded by corporations with tax-credited donations and allows parents and students to choose between a scholarship to support private school tuition and fees or one that assists with transportation costs to a different public school.

“Our core purpose is to *Be A Fuel For Good*, and one of the most important ways we achieve that is by positively impacting children in the communities we serve,” said Kevin Greiner, president and CEO of Gas South. “Education is a critical tool for our children to reach their full potential, and we are confident our partnership with Step Up For Students will provide life-changing opportunities for deserving schoolchildren across ‘The Sunshine State.’”

“We are grateful to have Gas South as a partner in our mission to help Florida students access the right education,” said Doug Tuthill, president of Step Up For Students. “With their support, even more schoolchildren will be able to access an education that fits their learning needs.”

In February 2019, the Urban Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, released the results of a study on the effectiveness of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, the nation’s largest private K-12 scholarship program. The study found that students on scholarship for four or more years were up to 99% more likely to attend a four-year college than their peers in public school and up to 45% more likely to earn bachelor’s degrees.

Since 2002, Step Up For Students has awarded more than one million Florida Tax Credit Scholarships. More than 2,000 private schools participate in the scholarship program statewide.

### **About Gas South**

Gas South is a leading provider of natural gas in competitive markets throughout the southeastern U.S. Following the acquisition of Infinite Energy in 2020, Gas South now serves more than 425,000 residential, business and governmental customers in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and 10 other states. Gas South offers simple and straightforward rate plans, outstanding local customer service, and a promise to give back 5% of profits to support children in need. Gas South is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cobb EMC, one of the country’s largest electric cooperatives. For more information, visit [www.GasSouth.com](http://www.GasSouth.com).

### **About Step Up For Students**

Step Up For Students is a non-profit organization that helps administer the donor-funded, income-based Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The scholarship program provides tuition assistance to the



private school of their parents' choice, or financial assistance to offset the transportation cost to a different public school. Since 2002, Step Up For Students has awarded more than one million Florida Tax Credit Scholarships.

Step Up also helps administer the state-funded Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities, plus three other scholarships, the income-based Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options, the Hope Scholarship for public school students who are bullied, and the Reading Scholarship Accounts for third- through fifth-grade students enrolled in public school who struggle with reading. For more information, visit [www.StepUpForStudents.org](http://www.StepUpForStudents.org).

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