



Pinellas Education Foundation



2021 IMPACT REPORT

INSPIRED MINDS TRANSFORM LIVES



Our Mission

Our mission is to accelerate educational achievement for all students through the effective mobilization of innovation, relationships and resources.

Our Vision

Our vision is that every student will be prepared for life after high school, whether the choice is to attend college, to enter the workforce, or to obtain technical training.

Belief Statements

EQUITY FOR ALL

We believe everyone deserves a high-quality education.

VALUE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

We believe that public education is a primary determinant of our county's economic prosperity and future success.

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS

We believe in preparing students for the variety of postsecondary and career pathways available to them.

INNOVATION

We believe in serving as a catalyst that activates new, more effective solutions to some of education's most pressing issues.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We believe in learning from our work and using these discoveries to inform the best solutions and investments in education.

2021 IMPACT REPORT CONTENTS



The new **Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative** dedicates research and resources to help educators better understand how to prepare preschoolers for success in kindergarten and beyond.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



**Pinellas Education
Foundation**

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* December 2021

Greetings

Dear Foundation Friend,

We are pleased to be able to share some of the highlights of what has been another constructive and rewarding year for the Pinellas Education Foundation. We continue our work to ensure that all students in our public schools have every opportunity to excel. Thank you for joining with us in this critical mission. Your support makes a difference in the lives of so many students and families.

This past year we progressed on many fronts. The Foundation has long been advancing student achievement and preparation for college and careers after high school. This year, our research and advocacy in closing the literacy achievement gap between boys and girls resulted in the creation of a new state task force. The Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys examined evidence-based strategies for narrowing the achievement gap and made recommendations for professional development, curriculum, and academic, behavioral and mental health supports. All of these steps underscore the leadership role one education foundation and school district can play in elevating an issue, presenting a solution, and increasing attention on a larger stage, leading to better student outcomes.

Additionally, our new Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative aims to ensure that our youngest students are well prepared for kindergarten, and thus more likely to succeed as they progress through elementary school. Take Stock in Children awarded 230 more scholarships. Mentors held more than 24,000 in-person and online mentoring sessions this year; and we graduated 175 new scholars. Despite the inability to have volunteers on campus, we served more than 16,000 students through our College and Career Centers.

As we progress toward the new year, the Foundation recommits to strengthening its programs and advancing equitable outcomes for all students. Through our strong, collaborative partnerships with the school district, corporate and community organizations, and individuals, our students will flourish.

The future and prosperity of our community depend on our collective belief that everyone deserves a high-quality education. We are grateful to you for sharing this vision with us.

Sincerely,



Charles Harris
Chair



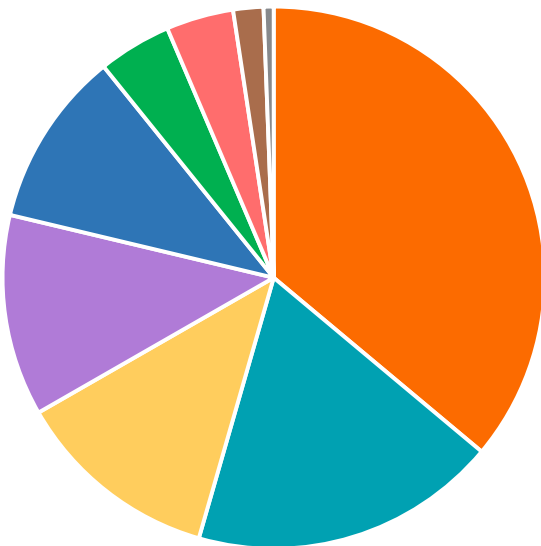
Stacy Baier, Ph.D.
CEO

Revenue & Expenditures

Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2021

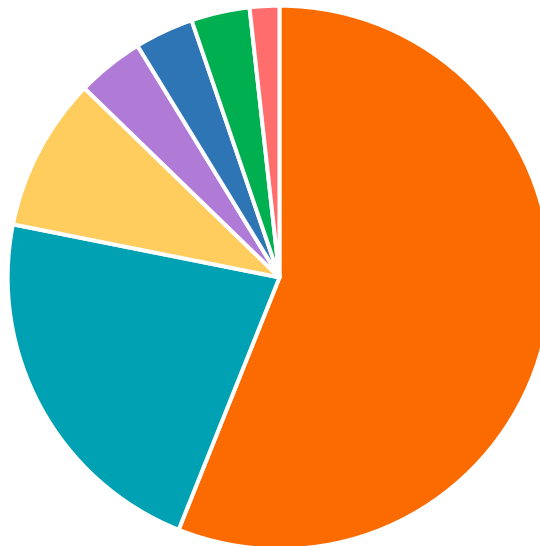
The Pinellas Education Foundation is grateful for the generosity of our partners and donors who elevate student achievement with each and every dollar invested in our schools, teachers, leaders and students. Each year, the Foundation supports its mission through

a combination of contributions, grants and investment income. This year, the Foundation celebrated the grand opening of the Richard O. Jacobson Tech High Veterinary Sciences Building, which is reflected in a significant increase in programmatic expenses.



REVENUE:
\$11,014,271

Investment Returns	36.09%
Prepaid Scholarship Match Fund	18.37%
Foundations	12.26%
Corporations	12.01%
Government	10.49%
Other	4.37%
Individuals	4.02%
Organizations	1.8%
In-Kind Contributions	0.60%



EXPENDITURES:
\$9,401,726

Programs and Grants	56.5%
Take Stock in Children	22.08%
Student Scholarships	11.78%
Administration	3.99%
Community Relations and Events	3.51%
Stavros Institute	3.48%
Fundraising	1.76%

Ready... Set... Kindergarten Success

The Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative will build foundational reading skills among the county's youngest students.



From left to right: Caprice Edmond, Pinellas County School Board Member; Charles Hokanson, Senior Vice President, Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, Helios Education Foundation; Dr. Stacy Baier, CEO, Pinellas Education Foundation; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Pinellas County Schools; Charles Harris, Board Chair, Pinellas Education Foundation; Robert Byelick, Treasurer, Pinellas Education Foundation.

The new Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative, launched this year by the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools, aims to improve kindergarten readiness rates and literacy proficiency among elementary school students. The Initiative focuses on kindergarten readiness by extending the science of reading into Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and K-2 classrooms where teachers have an opportunity to affect educational achievement through evidence-based instruction.

"Teachers and school leaders are the lynchpin to higher student achievement," said Dr. Stacy Baier,

CEO of the Pinellas Education Foundation. "By providing training, resources and tools to those who are teaching our youngest students, we can decrease the number of students who are struggling well before they reach the third grade."

To build the necessary skills and knowledge among educators, the Initiative supports school-based teams of principals, assistant principals, teachers and literacy professionals through staff development and training, coaching in the classroom, and monthly "communities of practice." These gatherings, which are led by the University of Florida's Lastinger Center, provide teachers an opportunity to explore together the

challenges they may be encountering in the classroom.

"By marshaling resources to enhance support of our District and community Pre-K and K-2 teachers," said Baier, "we can impact the number of students who are more likely to enter kindergarten ready to be successful and become proficient readers by the end of third grade."

154

PRE-K AND
K-2 TEACHERS
TRAINED

QWYNN FOSTER

Journey to Success

Overcoming enormous obstacles, while staying focused and true to himself, is quintessential Qwynn.

Qwynn Foster's path to a full ride at Vanderbilt University was hardly ordinary, but that only seems fitting considering that he's far from typical. After all, Qwynn graduated from Gibbs as a junior with the third-highest GPA in his class, served as president of Student Government and the school's Gay-Straight Alliance, and won first-place in a Future Business Leaders of America competition.

16,414

STUDENTS SERVED BY COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTERS

Despite his accomplishments, Qwynn's college-going journey was marked by challenges. His home life was difficult, so much so that he spent his final six months of high school in a transitional program for homeless kids.

While the cost of college seemed as daunting as the admissions processes, Qwynn sought help and found it in Sarah Alvarez of the College and Career Center, a program of the Pinellas Education Foundation and a partner to the district's counseling teams.

"Qwynn and I worked to identify schools that would embrace his talents," said Alvarez. "His personal circumstances created obstacles with financial aid applications that I was able to help him navigate. Being a part of his success has been incredibly rewarding."

It was Alvarez who suggested that Qwynn apply to Vanderbilt, and he fell in love with the school and its inclusive culture. "When I got my acceptance letter, it was totally personalized, saying 'We recognize what you've been through and how much of an addition you'll be on campus.'"



FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Sarah Painter Spreads Message of Joy



The Pinellas Education Foundation celebrates teachers every day by supporting professional development, classroom grants, and numerous student success programs. But once a year, it has an opportunity to join hands with Pinellas County Schools and community partners to recognize the best of the best. In 2021, Eisenhower Elementary teacher Sarah Ann Painter was not only named a finalist in the Teacher of the Year program, she went on to become Florida Teacher of the Year.

Painter spends much of her time traveling as a special ambassador, speaking to groups of K-12 educators and newcomers to the profession. Yet her core message has been the same as the one she began delivering to her Eisenhower fifth graders as they all adjusted to life in a pandemic.

"The class and I came up with a two-word phrase: find joy. The idea was to hold ourselves accountable. So whenever disappointments came up, our outlook was, 'What can we find in this moment that's still something to celebrate?'"



Closing the Achievement Gap

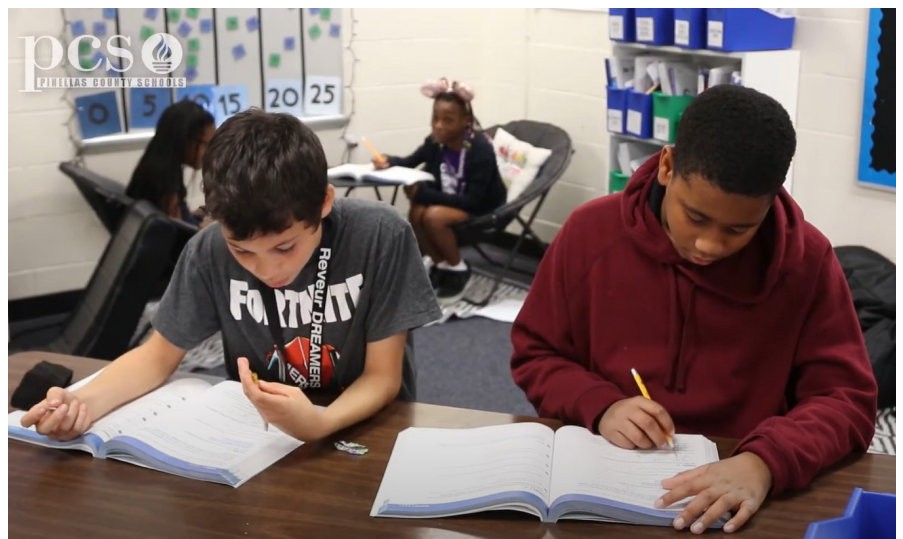
New State Task Force shines a light on Foundation's work to help develop gender-specific teaching methods.

Earlier this year, the Pinellas Education Foundation's signature work to address gender achievement gaps gained serious momentum when the State of Florida created the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys. Foundation CEO Stacy Baier and Pinellas Schools Superintendent Michael Grego were among those selected to serve on the new task force.

"Rallying the community around a key educational achievement opportunity can lead to greater attention and action," said Jim Myers, co-chair of the Pinellas Education Foundation's Closing the Gap Committee. "Our Foundation has a long history of addressing achievement gaps with innovative programming, and then gaining momentum to scale and grow the program and its impact."

4,166

STUDENTS IMPACTED BY
CLOSING THE GAP GRANTS



Research has long recognized that girls and boys learn differently. For instance, boys have an inherent need to move, enjoy competition and prefer shoulder-to-shoulder interaction rather than face to face. By contrast, girls like more defined areas, small friend groups, and more structure, excelling more in discussion-focused learning environments.

The Closing the Gap Committee assists teachers and schools through support of brain-based, research-driven instructional strategies. Use of these strategies has already led to higher achievement for both boys and girls. A goal of the task force is to make recommendations about how the state can advance awareness and

action toward reducing the gender achievement gap in other districts and schools.

"This transformative endeavor began with six Pinellas elementary schools and has since grown to 10, each offering gender-specific teaching methods to support student achievement," said Sebastian Dortch, who co-chairs the Committee with Myers. "We are grateful for an opportunity to work with the task force, and continue to raise awareness of the achievement gap, as well as the research and strategies that will help our students excel."

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS



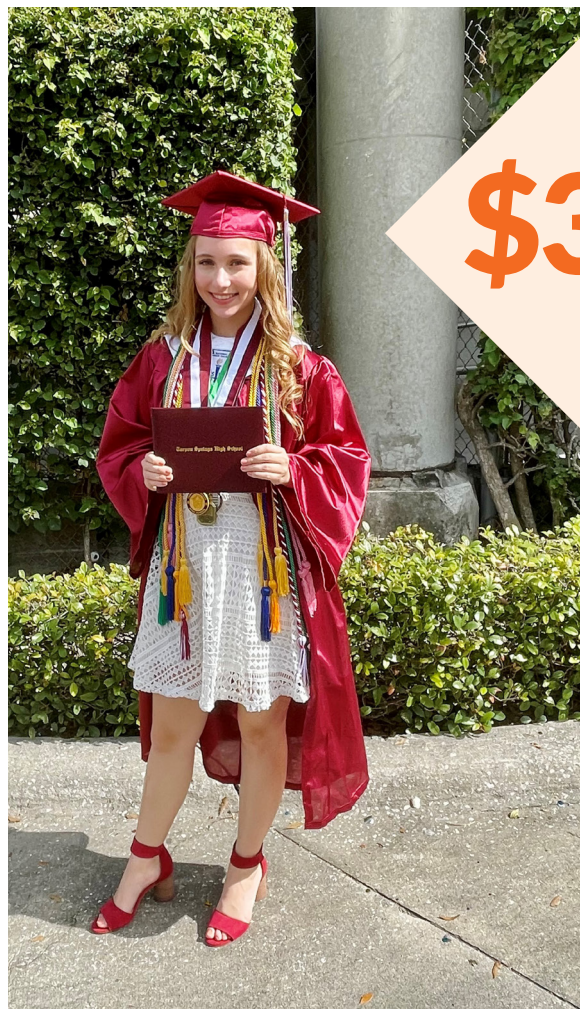
**Pinellas Education
Foundation**

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS

All Pinellas Education Foundation programs are geared toward driving our mission: accelerating educational achievement for all students through the effective mobilization of innovation, relationships and resources.

The Foundation plays an integral role in providing students with the navigational capital and supports to advance access and student success, whether they choose to attend college, obtain technical training, or enter the workforce upon graduating from high school. Programs that facilitate multiple pathways for students include:

- Career Technical Education
- Elevating Excellence/College and Career Centers
- Scholarships
- Summer Career Acceleration Program
- Take Stock in Children
- Youth Connect
- Walker's Rising Stars Scholarships



\$3,814,890

IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Scholarships

Take Stock in Children awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to 175 new graduates. Additionally, more than 300 students received traditional scholarships, including Samantha Kopec, who graduated from Tarpon Springs High School and was awarded multiple Pinellas Education Foundation scholarships, including the Walker's Rising Stars, Suncoast Jazz Society, and Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education Scholarships. Samantha is now studying Music Business at the University of Miami.

Career Technical Education

Thanks to a generous gift from the Richard O. Jacobson Foundation, students are enjoying a new veterinary science building at Richard O. Jacobson Technical High School. Part of a \$4.6 million project, the new veterinary science spaces allow students to work directly with large and small animals on the school's farm. Many of these students will go on to earn veterinary assistant certifications.



From left to right: Caprice Edmond, Pinellas County School Board Member; Carol Cook, Past School Board Chair; and Dr. Michael Grego, Pinellas County Schools Superintendent.

10,244

CAREER AND TECHNICAL
CERTIFICATIONS EARNED

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS



**Pinellas Education
Foundation**

134

STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN
ONE-ON-ONE READING
RECOVERY LESSONS
IN 2021

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Among the most powerful levers for improving academic achievement are the effectiveness of teachers and administrators. Many of the Foundation's programs are directed toward supporting excellence in instruction and leadership, including:

- Closing the Gap
- Digital Equity Project
- Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative
- Reading Recovery

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

A number of Foundation programs are designed to help build a supportive culture for teachers and develop important life skills for students. These include:

- Enterprise Village
- Evening of Excellence: Teacher of the Year
- Finance Park
- Focus on Education
- Fund a Classroom
- Next Generation Entrepreneurs
- Stuff the Bus
- Youth Farm

Reading Recovery



Now in its third year in Pinellas County, Reading Recovery continues to grow. First grade readers in 14 schools benefit from daily one-on-one or group lessons while teachers participate in professional

development to help ensure that young readers reach grade-level proficiency. To date, 66 teachers and more than 1,000 students have participated in Reading Recovery.



Early Literacy Scan

April 2021

Prepared by the Pinellas Education Foundation
Supported by the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg



Focus on Education

A series of research papers on educational outcomes, Focus on Education stems from a partnership between the Pinellas Education Foundation and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg. Together, the foundations are working to foster community dialogue, engage stakeholders, and initiate action plans based on report findings and recommendations. "The Early Literacy Scan" was published this year.

Stuff the Bus

The Stuff the Bus school supply drive had its most successful year ever, raising more than \$175,000 in cash, supplies and in-kind support. Foundation staff and volunteers delivered a pallet of supplies to 25 Title 1 schools and provided \$500 Publix gift cards to every principal. Numerous corporate sponsors participated in the annual event.





DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Chuck and Nancy Frazier

Having grown up with little means in 1950s Kansas, the couple hopes their legacy gift will make a difference for Pinellas students.

Chuck Frazier's dad worked at an auto-parts store, never earning more than \$16,000 in a single year. Chuck and his three brothers shared a bedroom. Nancy was the oldest of nine children. Her dad was the support of his large family while working at Boeing. Both families put away \$2 a week in a special fund so they could have \$100 to buy presents at Christmas.

That tradition of wise financial planning was how the Fraziers, after creating a thriving photography business in Kansas, shared the value of giving back with their own two children. For instance, they would give their daughter and son \$1,000 for Christmas, but there was a catch: The kids could keep \$100, but had to give away the other \$900 to charitable causes.

The children have long since gone on to enjoy successful careers, with philanthropy lessons well-learned. More recently, they fully embraced

their parents' decision to leave a legacy gift to the Pinellas Education Foundation, benefiting the Take Stock in Children scholarship program.

The Fraziers' story is one more example of how people can make a profound difference, in this case, with a deferred gift from their IRA.

How did you become interested in photography?

CHUCK: I went to school at Wichita State and was actually a journalism major. I still needed a few more credits, and my advisor suggested I take a photography class. If you turn in your photos, you'll get an easy A. And I thought, 'Boy, I could use that for my GPA!' So I took the class and I got so hooked on photography that I started buying cameras.

NANCY: I said, 'You're going to have to do something to pay for all this.' So Chuck started shooting weddings and other events, and business grew and grew. At one time, he took 50,000 elementary school photos in a year!

When did you come to Florida?

CHUCK: We did photography for the better part of 30 years. In 1995, a man walked in and said he'd like to buy our business. Two years later, in 1997, I was ready to sell, and we retired. We had visited this part of Florida about the same time.



We both feel the strong need for advanced learning and hope our legacy can provide that for students who might never have the opportunity without this support."

Chuck and Nancy Frazier

What drew you to the Pinellas Education Foundation?

CHUCK: I learned about the Foundation through my involvement with Rotary International. Our club would fund one Take Stock in Children scholarship every year. And then Nancy and I started funding our own. I think Take Stock in Children is a phenomenal program.

2020-2021 DONORS

**Pinellas Education
Foundation**



We are grateful for the generosity of our 2020-21 donors, whose contributions of time, talent and resources have a profound, transformative effect on our community and its young people. Whether a legacy gift, a contribution to the Stavros Society, or a corporate sponsorship, your gift to the Pinellas Education Foundation makes a difference. For more information about all of the ways to partner with us, please contact Julie Perrelli, Vice President of Advancement, Julie.Perrelli@pinellaseducation.org, or 727-588-4816, ext. 2113. Thank you!

\$500,000 +

CareerSource Pinellas
Helios Education Foundation
State of Florida

\$250,000 - \$499,999

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Muriel M. Wells Revocable Trust
Take Stock in Children, Inc.

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The Ryan Wells Foundation

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“

It's amazing that
someone is willing
to give money and
give of themselves to
someone they don't
know, and I'm really
appreciative of that.
I hope I'm making
you proud.”

Heaven Taylor-Wynn
Take Stock in Children Scholar
and University of Florida graduate

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\$2,499**

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**We thank all of our donors,
whose collective support makes a
difference in the lives of so many.**

The Stavros Society



Beginning with the vision
and generosity of Dr. Gus
Stavros and his wife Frances
many years ago, the Pinellas
Education Foundation has
impacted the lives of countless
Pinellas County students. The
Stavros Society is an annual
giving program that provides
support for the Foundation's
goals to accelerate academic
achievement for all students—
fueling innovation and the
future of education.

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2020-2021 DONORS

**Pinellas Education
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MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF THE CLEARWATER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '65 ALUMNI WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US

Theresa Gil
Paul and Lorraine Sayward

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY BORGARD

John and Carol McCarthy, III

IN MEMORY OF GROVER BOYKIN

John and Carol McCarthy, III

IN MEMORY OF EARLE BROWN

Cynthia Miller

IN MEMORY OF HENRY BURNS

Peter and Julie Perrelli
Dr. Stacy and Greg Baier

IN MEMORY OF JANIS M. CRAWFORD

John and Carol McCarthy, III



Partnering with the Foundation has allowed us to provide scholarships to students who would otherwise not be able to enjoy higher education. It's tremendous to be able to help."

Kay Dillinger
Co-founder, Beth Dillinger
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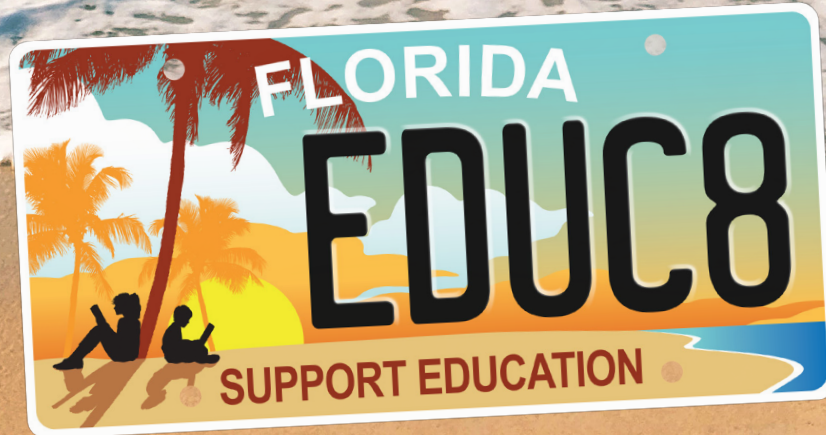
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