

## Jacksonville Business Journal

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### **Governor, Attorney General thank corporate donors**

Gov. Jeb Bush was in town Monday to thank corporate donors that fund scholarships for low-income students.

At a Step Up for Students Rally, Bush addressed about 2,200 parents, students and teachers at The Potter's House Christian Fellowship. Duval County, home to more than 1,100 scholarship students and 77 participating schools, was chosen to host the event because of the area's strong support for school choice.

Bush told audience members that every parent should be empowered to find the best school for their children.

"I commend the companies helping these families, and I commend the families themselves for their commitment to education," Bush said.

The event included representatives from corporate sponsors such as FloridaRock, Albertson's, Mac Papers, Gate Petroleum, EverBank, Sysco and Marriott.

The Corporate Tax Credit program - also known as "Step Up For Students" - provides K-12 scholarships that allow over 11,000 low-income Florida students to attend a private school or out-of-district public school. One hundred percent of corporate contributions go directly to funding scholarships -- none of it can be used for administrative costs. So far in 2005 North Florida companies have donated eight times as much to the program as they did at the same time last year.