



**Students First
Statement of Support**

Yes, I/We, _____, support and endorse the enclosed White Paper, *A Case for Change in Pinellas Schools*, which recommends that Pinellas County Schools convert to a school based management system and replication of the Okaloosa School District model.

It is imperative for our community to invest in the development of young people by working together in partnership with parents, business leaders, Pinellas County School educators, administrators, and the Pinellas County School Board.

In summary:

- Recognize tax-payers and employers as customers of Pinellas County Schools, and students as beneficiaries of an education that leads to success in life.
- Reduce the central administrative staff size and change the purpose for central administration from managers of programs to evaluators of programs. Program management and decisions concerning curriculum methods and resources should become the responsibility of the school based management team.
- The millions of dollars saved from reallocating resources will go back to the schools.
- Hold principals accountable but allow them to be in charge of their schools and give them the authority over financial and budgetary matters.
- Parents and community leaders will work with principals to build a budget and serve as a quasi-board of directors for its schools.
- Pinellas County Schools' leadership should place a priority on training administrators and providing teachers with resources for implementation of the model.
- Aggressively approach curriculum with rigor and relevance and connect the theory of education to the relevancy of the real world; industry certifications and curricula leading to employable skills should be greatly expanded in our classrooms.
- End the practice of social promotion.
- Data should be useful and transparent and drive academic decisions.
- Financial records should be open and transparent.

My signature below grants permission to the Pinellas Education Foundation to include my name or the name of my organization, as a member of the Students First Alliance in public support of the White Paper, *A Case for Change in Pinellas Schools*.

(signature)

(print name & title)

(date)

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