



John Kirtley

Founder and Chairman

John Kirtley's passionate work in education began in 1998 when he created the Children's Scholarship Fund of Tampa Bay. The Fund partnered with the national organization Children's Scholarship Fund and provided privately funded scholarships for low-income children to attend the K - 8 school of their choice. In three months, with little publicity, this program received 12,500 applications for 750 scholarships. As a result of the overwhelming demand, Kirtley's desire to offer this opportunity to more low-income families was born.

In the 2001 Florida legislative session, Kirtley helped fight for a new law that gives corporations tax credits for donating to a scholarship organization that empowers low-income parents with the ability to choose the best educational setting for their children. After seven academic years of scholarship success, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship has served 116,000 low-income students. Kirtley serves as Chairman of Florida School Choice Fund, a nonprofit that seeks to improve K-12 education in Florida through parental choice programs that advantage children from low-income and working class families.

Kirtley resides in Tampa, Fla. where he works as a venture capitalist while staying active with state and national school choice issues. He is currently the Vice Chairman of Alliance for School Choice (ASC), which is a national school advocacy group that fights to bring parental choice to low-income parents nationwide. Kirtley also serves as Chairman of All Children Matter-Florida, a bipartisan organization whose mission is to support policies that will provide access to a quality education for all of Florida's children. Finally, he is a board member of The McIntire School of Commerce of the University of Virginia, from which he graduated in 1985, and a board member of the James Madison Institute.



Doug Tuthill

President

Doug Tuthill has devoted most of his professional life to improving education, first as a college professor and then as a classroom teacher, policy advocate and teacher union president. Tuthill resigned from his university teaching position in 1984 to help create Florida's first International Baccalaureate program at St. Petersburg High School. This IB program was Tuthill's first effort to create more learning options for students and made him an earlier pioneer in Florida's school choice movement.

Tuthill was elected President of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association in 1991, serving two terms. During this time he also chaired the state committee that created Florida's Sunshine State Standards and served on the committee that created the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Beginning in 1999 Tuthill worked in the private sector for six years, directing K-16 sales for Saba, Inc, a provider of online learning management systems, and serving as Chief Operating Officer of Creative Loafing Media, a print and digital media company with publications in Atlanta, Charlotte, Tampa and Sarasota. Most recently Tuthill worked as a policy analyst for the Collins Center for Public Policy and managed a partnership between the University of Florida and Pinellas County School District focused on improving high-poverty elementary schools.