

Finding More Choices for Schools in Florida

Public-private partnerships as well as removing barriers to more private education can both pave the way forward.

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Students from Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Lighthouse of Broward at the FLA Live Arena in Sunrise, Fla., July 14, 2023. Wilfredo Lee/Associated Press

While [“In Florida, Billionaires Open Their Own Schools”](#) (Page One, April 18) explores how the ultrawealthy are developing more educational facilities across South Florida, it is equally important to consider supporting public-private partnerships to fill this

educational gap, including learning environments that consider those living with disabilities.

At Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, we believe the private sector's role should focus on expanding specialized access for all. Through our Miami Lighthouse Academy, a first-of-its-kind model operating in a partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, early learners benefit from a public-private model, in which blind and visually impaired students can learn alongside their sighted peers. This collaboration enables and supports all students to excel—adapting learning modalities to their specific needs, using advanced technology, and employing specially trained teachers alongside classroom educators. The effect is life-changing.

One of our lifelong participants, despite total blindness, is graduating from the University of Miami Frost School of Music and transitioning on full scholarship to the University of Miami School of Law. Stories like this prove that when private expertise and public resources join forces, we can create true equity and opportunity. Our partnership ensures that students, regardless of family wealth, have access to world-class specialized education.

True educational innovation is found when we prioritize the unique needs of our most vulnerable learners. By fostering these collaborative models, we ensure that South Florida's growth benefits the entire community, providing every child the chance to see the future clearly.

Virginia A. Jacko

President and CEO

Miami

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