Dear Friend of Alachua County Public Schools:

The investment Alachua County citizens began making in our schools eight years ago is paying off in a big way!

By approving the One Mill for Schools in both 2008 and 2012, voters ensured that our schools have the funding they need for full-time art and music teachers, guidance counselors, media centers, the district’s highly-successful academic and career-tech magnet programs, middle and high school band and chorus programs and classroom technology. That funding also guarantees that no matter what happens at the state or national level, we will continue to have nurses in each of our schools—all at a cost of about $7 a month for the average homeowner.

Thanks to that investment, our students are achieving great things. They continue to earn state, national, even international honors in academics, career tech, the arts and other areas. Many of these students are enrolled in programs supported directly by the one mill, but of course all students in the district benefit from the one mill in some way.

In fact, we all do. High-quality schools boost property values and help attract new businesses and jobs. Most importantly, they prepare our young people to be contributing members of society.

Although the one mill is set to expire in 2017, local voters will have the opportunity to renew it for another four years by voting YES for the One Mill for Schools on Election Day, November 8. The ballot language again requires an independent oversight committee to ensure the One Mill funds are being spent as voters intended.

Citizens for Strong Schools, a coalition of parents, business leaders and other education-minded Alachua County residents, will once again lead the effort to promote the one mill among local voters. We ask that you consider making a contribution to this effort. All of us with Citizens for Strong Schools are volunteers, so 100% of your contribution will be used to raise awareness and encourage our fellow citizens to support the One Mill for Schools.

Our website at www.citizensforstrongschools.org is set up to accept credit card and PayPal donations. If you’d prefer, you can also mail a check made out to Citizens for Strong Schools to the address above.

The website also contains important information about the one mill, including answers to frequently asked questions, the ballot language and a list of other ways in which you can become involved with Citizens for Strong Schools.

As a businessman and parent, I’m committed to ensuring the success of our young people and our community. I hope you will join me in support of the One Mill for Schools!

Sincerely,

Mark McGriff, Chairman
Citizens for Strong Schools