



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2332

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida businesses need more workers in technical careers in fields like IT, engineering, manufacturing, construction, and logistics. This project works to increase the number of students following these pathways by introducing these careers to students while in middle school. Studies have shown that this helps students to envision themselves in these careers while work attitudes are still in formation. Specifically, this project will continue a statewide network by providing the Learning Blade career awareness and interest system to primarily middle schools and other K-12 schools statewide and allow schools to interact with each other. This system is currently successfully offered statewide in 9 other states and has demonstrated excellent results over the past 8 years. To date this program has served over 15,000 students in Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,900,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,900,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,900,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	1,900,000	96	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

None.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Learning Blade curriculum licenses	1,900,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,900,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

Create a more skilled workforce for Florida by building interest in middle grade students in high-demand careers in STEM, computer science, and CTE (Career and Technical Education). Studies have shown that introducing these careers earlier and in the context of real-world problems increases student desire to follow these pathways that businesses need the most. This provides actionable resources and connections for educators allowing them to deliver a more robust experience for all students.



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b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The project will allow the state to provide supplemental academic lessons and hands-on activities that any teacher can utilize statewide. Teachers can choose to use with K-12 students without the need for any additional equipment or purchases. Teachers in Florida and 9 other states have completed nearly 7,000,000 lessons using this system, and teachers in Florida alone have already completed over 400,000 lessons. These efforts will also allow teachers to be trained and connected to other educators statewide at no additional cost to the educators or the schools.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

This project will allow the continuation of the Learning Blade supplemental system of student-ready online lessons and hands-on classroom projects for all districts/schools statewide. This system provides 12 "Missions" that involve students in engaging problems such as helping to build more storm-safe housing, designing new cars, preventing school websites from being hacked, or relieving traffic congestion. Each Mission introduces the technical careers and skills that would be used to solve these problems in real life. Teachers can then use easy-to-follow lesson plans that let students explore the solutions to these issues in their own classrooms. Additionally the project will conduct regional meetings to expose educators to this and other resources that can build their ability to increase this high demand careers pipeline.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target population is all middle school students and teachers statewide. The resources are offered to all middle schools primarily and other K-12 schools statewide, including charter and private schools. To date this program has impacted over 15,000 students in Florida, with over 3,000 in August to October of this school year alone. In the current school year, over 140 teachers have requested accounts to serve their students. We expect to serve 10,000 students this school year.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

This project will increase student awareness and interest in high-demand careers in STEM, computer science and CTE. This will be measured by the number of lessons completed, the number of schools enrolled, and by surveys of students and teachers participating in the program. Students in Florida and other states have completed nearly 7,000,000 lessons in this program, 59% are more interested in STEM careers, and 61% are more interested in computer science careers after participating in this program as noted in validated studies. Summary reports will be provided after every semester.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

The standard penalty for a program such as this would be to not renew it for the next school year. However, the Learning Blade program has never failed to be renewed for failure to meet deliverables or performance in any other other 9 statewide contracts, which have been in progress for up to 8 consecutive years.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number