



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

1. Project Title:
2. Senate Sponsor:
3. Date of Request:
4. Project/Program Description:

On March 21, 2017, the Jefferson County School Board voted 5-0 to approve Somerset Academy Incorporated's three charter applications. In essence, the vote established Somerset as the entity that would take over the entire districts students' education in grades PK-12 including its alternative school. The vote was historic for Florida and Somerset becomes the first network of charter schools that will run an entire school district.

Jefferson County while currently small compared to the various school districts throughout the state suffers from generational poverty and very low academic achievement. The district is currently 100% direct certified free and reduced lunch with a substantial population of Exceptional Education Students. The challenges to sustained academic success and creating a transformational culture in one of the state's most challenging environments is not lost to the Somerset Board of Education. Somerset Jefferson County K-12 submits a request for a 5-year legislative appropriation to support its efforts in transforming the educational future of students in Jefferson County. The items listed in the budget are areas not typically covered by a start-up grant but are essential to the success of the students and community. The request includes funding for 10 educators each of whom will be trained and supported by Teach for America (TFA's). It is the intent of the Somerset to have 20 TFA's on it campus for two years and then replace core team members as they phase out of TFA. The mission of TFA lines up precisely with that of Somerset, to enlist, develop and mobilize as many as possible of our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement of educational equity and excellence.

One of the most important factors in advancing the education of students in Jefferson County will be to create strong and lasting partnerships with parents and the community. Somerset recognizes the importance of this task and will create a community within the school that includes opportunities to break down the barriers that parents may have to becoming active partners in their children's education.

Our plan includes a full-scale effort for community outreach and the creation of a Parent Institute to train and interact with parents and community members. In addition, a Parent Outreach Coordinator will be hired to serve parents and students by visiting homes when necessary, setting up parent workshops, meeting with community leaders and running the parent outreach office. Somerset will also have a robust social media program that uses the latest technology in order to reach students, parents and the community.

Somerset will create a two week required Teacher Institute each year for returning and new faculty members. This institute is conducted in August of each year prior to the commencement of each school year. Educational experts will assist teachers in planning and executing lessons that stimulate student learning. Instructors will receive training in cultural sensitivity, data analysis; mind works training and various other topics increasing their capacity to be effective teachers.

Somerset will recruit the very best teachers to Jefferson County from throughout the area and across the country. Somerset will offer highly competitive salaries and benefits making Jefferson County teachers among the highest paid in the state.



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Somerset will also evaluate teachers currently employed in Jefferson County to determine their suitability to remain at the school. Somerset will bring content area experts and personnel from throughout its network of schools to spend three days observing classroom lesson and culminating in an oral interview.

The total special appropriation request to fulfill all of Somerset’s plans to support teaching, learning and the Jefferson community is a total of \$4,950,000 to be appropriated over a five-year period.

Somerset-Jefferson - Legislative Appropriation 5 year plan with recurring proviso language.

- Teach for America: \$2,500,000.00
- Community in Schools: \$250,000.00
- Evaluation of Personnel: \$90,000.00
- Community Outreach: \$250,000.00
- Personnel Incentives: \$1,125,000.00
- Professional Development: \$125,000.00
- Teacher Training Institute: \$250,000.00
- Parent Outreach Coordinator: \$260,000.00
- Parent Institute: \$100,000.00

Total: \$ 4,950,000.00

5. State Agency to receive requested funds:	Somerset Scademy Inc. through Jefferson County School District
State Agency Contacted?	Yes

6. Amount of the Non-Recurring Request:

Amount Requested for Operations	Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay	Total Amount of Requested State Funds
\$4,950,000 over 5 years	Click here to enter text.	\$4,950,000

7. Total Project Cost (if greater than Total Requested State Funds):	N/A
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8. Type, amount and percent of matching funds available for this project:

Type	Amount	Percent
Federal:	N/A	Click here to enter text.
State (Excluding the amount of this request):	N/A	Click here to enter text.
Local:	N/A	Click here to enter text.
Other:	N/A	Click here to enter text.

9. Was the project previously funded by the State?

Fiscal Year(s)	Amount		Vetoed
	Recurring	Non-Recurring	
N/A	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.



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Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
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10. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year.

Yes \$990,000 per year over 5 years

11. Program Performance (if needed, include additional documentation):

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

A complete turnaround of the lowest performing school district in the state. First to become a full run Charter School District.

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

Educational Services for an entire school district including district office functions

c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	None	Click here to enter text.
Other Salary and Benefits	Fund 10 Teach for America Teachers	\$2,500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Evaluation of current teaching staff. Teacher Training Institute	\$340,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional Development Program for staff	\$375,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Community School Parent Resource Specialist and Parent Institute Coordinator	\$360,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Community in Schools	\$250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Incentives for Personnel (teachers and consultants)	\$1,125,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

d. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Direct services to staff, students and parents in Jefferson County. See project description

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

750 students whom are direct certified free and reduced lunch. Residents of Jefferson County

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

Improved test scores on the Florida Assessment Test and improved community relations with the school as measured by an annual survey.

g. 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 in the contract?

Unknown



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12. 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.

No

13. Requestor Contact information:

a. Name and Title:

Lourdes Isla, Governing Board Chair

b. Organization:

Somerset Academy Inc.

c. E-mail Address:

lisa@somersetacademyschools.com

d. Phone Number:

305-298-0594

14. Recipient Contact Information:

a. Organization:

Somerset Academy Inc.

b. Municipality and County:

Jefferson County Florida

c. Organization type (check all that apply):

For-profit Entity

Non Profit 501(c) (3)

Non Profit 501(c) (4)

Local Entity

University or College

Other (please specify)

Click here to enter text.

d. Contact Name and Title:

Click here to enter text.

e. E-mail Address:

Click here to enter text.

f. Phone Number:

Click here to enter text.

15. Lobbyist Contact Information:

a. Name:

Andriena Figueroa

b. Firm:

ADF Consulting

c. Email Address:

adf@adfconsulting.com

d. Phone Number:

786-586-7001

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

16. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

Waste Water Revolving Loan

Drinking Water Revolving Loan

Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant

Other (Please describe) [Click here to enter text.](#)

N/A

17. What is the population economic status?

Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)

Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)



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- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288-0656, Florida Statutes)

18. What is the status of construction?

N/A

19. What percentage of the construction has been completed? What is the estimated completion date?

N/A

This document will be posted on the Florida Senate website for public viewing.