



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** Pinellas PREP (Paraprofessionals Receiving Educational Preparation)

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Jeff Brandes

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/12/2018

4. **Project/Program Description:**

This pilot partnership will increase the teacher pipeline by focusing on current teacher assistants who aim to become full time classroom teachers. The goal of this program is to provide an undergraduate education to current employees in Pinellas County Schools. USFSP's College of Education will offer undergraduate programs to fit the educational requirements for Florida Department of Education certification and endorsements. The completion of a four year college degree, will mitigate barriers often associated with income caps for teacher assistants. This program is an initiative that helps Pinellas County and surrounding areas by increasing the number of residents with a baccalaureate degree and the average and median income rate. Additionally, this pilot program can utilize paraprofessionals who are currently committed to working in Pinellas County Schools and incentivizing a positive career path into classroom teaching.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** No

a. If yes, which state agency?

b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested? Board of Governors

6. **Amount of Non-recurring Requested for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Amount Requested for Operations	Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay	Total Amount of Requested State Funds
500,000		500,000

7. **Type, amount and percent of matching funds available for this project for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Type	Amount	Percent
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	60,000	12.0%
TOTAL	60,000	12.0 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 500,000



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9. Previous Year Funding Details:

- Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
- In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional)
- What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?
- Complete the following Worksheet.

FY:	Input Prior FY Appropriation for this project for FY 2017-18 (If appropriated in FY 2017-18 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)		
	Column:	A	B
Funds Description:		Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *
Input Amounts:			

10. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

Yes

- If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year.

\$500,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Increase the number of teachers in Pinellas County Schools by creating a pipeline that will assist the district in bridging the achievement gap for K-12 learners.

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

This initiative will provide tuition support to each top selected teacher assistant at USFSP's College of Education. The USFSP College of Education will offer coursework tailored to cultural relevance and social justice in addition to the current multifaceted curriculum in the Elementary Education dual track program. This cohort model will offer support for non-traditional returning undergraduate students who have worked in educational careers. Pinellas Education Foundation will support this initiative by assisting the selected paraprofessionals with the purchase of course textbooks and online materials (see matching funds). Pinellas County Schools will support this initiative with reciprocal employment during the undergraduate completion program and guaranteed employment upon graduation with the baccalaureate degree.

- How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
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Administrative Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Project Head	94,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits	Program Coordinator	40,500
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Tuition Support, Travel, Supplies, Other	365,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		500,000

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

Paraprofessionals in Pinellas County Schools will receive financial support to complete baccalaureate degrees and become certified classroom teachers. This will impact the economic impact and the community and increase the number of citizens in Pinellas County who hold a bachelors degree. The paraprofessionals will remain in Pinellas County Schools as full-time teachers upon graduation and increase the teacher pipeline.

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

Current Pinellas County Paraprofessionals/Teacher Assistants who aspire to enter the teaching profession full time but have not earned a baccalaureate degree. The target population currently work within the district but have not completed requirements for full time teaching. This project identifies the top paraprofessionals and teaching assistants in the district. An estimated 20-30 current teaching assistants would begin the pilot cohort.

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

There is currently a critical teacher shortage in high challenge, hard to staff schools. This project will reduce financial barriers associated with earning a four year degree and allow current teaching professionals



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(paraprofessionals/teacher assistants) to pursue a degree and work in the district where they are currently employed. Current paraprofessionals earn incomes slightly above the poverty level. With a four year degree and teaching certificate, they would double the income earning potential. This initiative will increase the number of qualified teachers in the Pinellas County school district, especially those that will serve economically disadvantaged communities and schools. Since this will provide a direct pipeline to Pinellas County Schools the outcome can be measured by the number of successful graduates. The district teacher evaluation measures will enable us to track the initial and continued success of the individuals hired.

- 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?**

Return funding to State

- 12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

N/A

- 13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. Name:** Helen Levine
- b. Organization:** University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- c. Email:** hlevine@usfsp.edu
- d. Phone Number:** (813)230-6017

- 14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. Organization:** University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- b. County:** Pinellas
- c. Organization Type:**
 - ☐ For Profit
 - ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - ☐ Local Entity
 - ☒ University or College
 - ☐ Other (Please specify)
- d. Contact Name:** Helen Levine
- e. E-mail Address:** hlevine@usfsp.edu
- f. Phone Number:** (813)230-6017

- 15. If there is a registered lobbyist, fill out the lobbyist information below.**

- a. Name:** Helen Levine
- b. Firm:** University of South Florida St. Petersburg
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- d. Phone Number:** (813)230-6017