



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2517

1. Project Title OCPS - Elementary Education Pathway for Paraprofessionals (E2P2) Program

2. Senate Sponsor Darryl Rouson

3. Date of Request 02/22/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Interest in the teaching profession has dropped in recent years, resulting in fewer available teachers to fill openings. Bringing current paraprofessionals into the teacher pipeline is one solution to this issue. The E2P2 Program offers as many as 35 paraprofessionals and instructional assistants already working in Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) a pathway to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education in a state-approved, K-6 certification track at the University of Central Florida (UCF).

The E2P2 Program provides scholarships to non-instructional employees to cover the full cost of tuition, laptops, textbooks, and certification exam fees. Program participants would receive on-going support in a customized program that will lead to teacher certification and an offer of future employment in Orange County Public Schools. As many as 35 para-professionals and program assistants currently working in OCPS will benefit from the program.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	751,050
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	751,050

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	751,050	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 2023-2024	751,050	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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



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

Yes

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

OCPS received approximately \$850 million in federal COVID-19 funding through the CARES Act, CRRSA Act, and ARP Act. The use of these funds is limited to addressing the learning loss of students during the pandemic and the safe reopening of schools.

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

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	One Program Coordinator - housed within UCF - to oversee, manage, and coordinate the program. To ensure program success, the Coordinator will provide daily guidance, serve as a mentor, assist with recruitment, and offer general support to program participants.	85,000
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	(1) Laptops for each program participant: \$1,600 per laptop x 35 participants, totaling \$56,000. (2) Textbook sets for each program participant: \$3,000 per set x 35 participants, totaling \$105,000.	161,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	(1) Full-program tuition for each participant: \$14,000 tuition x 35 participants, totaling \$490,000. (2) Certification (General Knowledge) Exam Fees: \$130 per exam x 35 participants, totaling \$4,550. (3) Subject Area Test Fees: \$150 per test x 35 participants, totaling \$5,250. (4) Professional Test Fees: \$150 per test x 35 participants, totaling \$5,250.	505,050
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		751,050

14. Program Performance

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

The goal of the E2P2 Program is to reduce the number of teacher vacancies in Orange County Public Schools by providing a customized pathway for current non-instructional personnel in the district to earn a bachelor's degree in education and teacher certification. Once participants complete the program, they would be offered employment in our highest-need elementary schools.

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

Services include providing scholarships to current non-instructional OCPS employees to cover the full cost of tuition, laptops, textbooks, and certification exam fees. Applicants will receive on-going support in a customized program which will lead to teacher certification and an offer of future employment in Orange County Public Schools.

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

As many as 35 OCPS non-instructional personnel currently serving Orange County students will benefit from the program. These employees do not have a teaching credential and face various financial and professional barriers to obtaining one. The E2P2 Program would remove many of these barriers and significantly reduce the number of teacher vacancies in the school district.

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

The target population is current, non-instructional personnel serving in Orange County Public Schools who have a two-year degree and an interest in earning a bachelor's degree in education. The program would accommodate as many as 35 participants, which would positively impact the current number of teacher vacancies across the district.

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

Para-professionals and other non-instructional personnel are well-positioned to become teachers. Program participants who earn a bachelor's degree in education and accept a position as a classroom teacher in the district will see an immediate increase in salary - from an average of \$29,836 to a starting teacher salary of \$48,400, an increase of more than 62%. The success of the program will be measured through documentation of completion of the program, the number of participants who are employed by the district, and available salary data.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables would result in financial consequences including withholding of funding or reduction in specified payments.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name



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b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- ☐ 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