



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2088

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Newsela is an instructional content platform that consists of high-quality digital content in order to enhance literacy, critical thinking, and reading engagement across English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science for students in grades 2-12. Newsela provides access to over 12,000 different texts; non-fiction texts are available at five different Lexile levels, each of which are automatically presented at each student's reading level. To support learners, Newsela will build custom collections to support the unique needs of Pasco as they pursue CTE pathways. Newsela will provide three unique core resources (ELA, Science and Social Studies) and a social emotional learning resource for students and teachers - to ensure equity of resources across content areas. Newsela commits to developing Custom Collections for CTE courses that go beyond the practical to give students opportunities to explore, read and understand the various career clusters are hard to find.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	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 2021-2022	500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2088

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

No

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Other Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	To build custom curricular solutions, Newsela will source unique, local, and relevant content. Then, Newsela will level the content to five lexile levels, ensuring that all students can access the content no matter their reading ability. Finally, all content will be aligned to the Florida State Standards with formative quizzes, write prompts and associated activities and seamlessly integrate into Pasco County's LMS and portal learning ecosystems.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	N/A	0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

12. Program Performance

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

Pasco County Schools is committed to ensuring that "All of our students achieve success in college, career, and life." To execute on this mission, Pasco provides students many learning opportunities and pathways. Specifically, Pasco County Schools offers students 12 CTE pathways in order to prepare them to be "workforce-ready and equipped with essential skills to secure meaningful employment and pursue post-secondary pathways". Our CTE programs go beyond the practical in order to inspire and engage students. By providing explicit literacy instruction, built for our community, we can better drive towards our program, and district, vision.

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

Newsela will provide Newsela ELA, and Custom Collections for CTE. Additionally, Newsela will work with Pasco to provide professional development for subgroups of teachers including those specific to CTE

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

Access to the Newsela ELA platform and custom CTE solutions

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

The students, teachers and district instructional staff of Pasco County schools.
80,000 individuals in total.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2088

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

Improve the quality of education in Pasco County Schools. Newsela's content is leveled at five Lexile levels, aligned to standards and curated to drive student engagement. By bringing high-quality and engaging content into classrooms - particularly in the realm of literacy and CTE - Pasco will be able to execute on its mission for all students to be college and career ready. Newsela will measure this goal by monitoring vocabulary acquisition (through the academic language tool) and active reading. Additionally, Newsela will be able to monitor growth in Lexile level and measure progress on core reading skills.

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?

Newsela will extend the timeline and scope of work to align to the time in which we failed to meet the deliverables.

13. 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.

N/A



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2088

14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number