



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1102

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

To develop a local pipeline of teachers to address the growing teacher shortage in Florida. Despite aggressive recruitment efforts, SLPS still has 38 teacher vacancies six weeks into the school year. This program would tap into our current non-instructional employee pool (Fifty paraprofessionals and clerical staff with AA degrees or 60 credits) and provide them with a customized college schedule to earn their teaching degree while still working in a school. This would remove barriers for furthering their education by providing financial support for tuition, credentials, technology, and textbooks while allowing for them to complete an internship without losing income. The program serves as both a recruitment and a retention strategy of a quality workforce that forecasts a significant teacher shortage.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	984,900
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	984,900

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	984,900	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 2022-2023	984,900	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.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1102

Yes

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

Cares I and ESSER II Funds: \$40,000,000 for PPE Equipment, School HVAC Projects, Bi-Polar Ionization Projects, Additional nurses, Technology upgrades and programs, Laptops for students, Summer school salaries and supplies for students to address learning loss, Quarantine student support, Interventionists for each school, and teacher aides for schools.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Program/Support Coordinator who will oversee, manage and coordinate the program with the University, School System and participants. The Program/Support Coordinator will ensure effectiveness by providing daily guidance, mentorship and support to participants including recruiting, completing applications, scheduling classes, and supporting participants through the program.	95,000
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	Loaned laptops for participants to participate in on-line University classes. 50 Laptops (\$800 per laptop) Total: \$40,000 Each participant will receive loaned textbooks for classes they are registered. Textbooks sets: (\$5000 per participant)	290,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	3/4 tuition will be paid for participants for each credit. 3/4 Tuition for 50 participants for 75 credit hours: \$ (1 credit at 3/4=\$152.46) Total=\$585,900 Certification exams for the General Knowledge (\$130) and Subject Area Tests (\$150) will be funded for 50 participants. Certification Exams: \$14,000	599,900
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		984,900

12. Program Performance

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

To develop a local pipeline of teachers to address the teacher shortage. Despite recruitment efforts, SLPS still has 38 teacher vacancies six weeks into school. This program would tap into our current non-instructional employees (50 paraprofessionals and clerical staff with AA degrees or 60 credit hours) and provide them with a customized college schedule to earn their teaching degree while still working in a school. This would remove barriers by providing financial support for tuition and materials while allowing them to complete an internship without losing income.

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

Services include providing scholarships to non-instructional employees to cover 3/4 college tuition, laptop usage, textbooks expenses, and certification exam costs. Applicants will receive on-going support and a customized program which will lead to teacher certification and employment. As a result, teacher vacancies will decrease, salaries will increase, therefore improving education in St. Lucie.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1102

Fifty applicants will receive funding and support to obtain a teaching degree through a personalized program designed for current employees with an AA degree or 60 credits in St. Lucie. The applicants will receive 3/4 of their tuition funded, a laptop and the cost of textbooks and certification exams. These applicants already work in the school and understand children and education but lack the teaching credentials due to numerous barriers. This program will remove those barriers and provide an avenue to reduce vacancies with our own staff.

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

Fifty St. Lucie Public Schools non-instructional staff (aides, clerical staff) are the target population for this project.

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

St. Lucie Schools will expand the pipeline of high-quality trained teachers by funding 50 current employees to obtain a teaching degree through a University partnership program. Once certified, participants will secure employment in St. Lucie County for a minimum of three years. As a result, teacher vacancies will decrease with employees who are local and familiar with our schools. Through this program, participant's salary will increase by over 150%, therefore increasing their economic self-sufficiency. St. Lucie will support, track and document participants in the program.

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?

St. Lucie County Public Schools will comply with any penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures as determined by the Department of Education.

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 2022-2023

LFIR # 1102

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