



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2841

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The Education Innovation Center will directly expose students to areas of technology such as robotics, artificial intelligence, energy storage, 3D printing, autonomous vehicle, space exploration, DNA sequencing, blockchain technology, and next generation Internet. These and other technologies are greatly impacting the world and the jobs Florida students will train in and seek employment. The Center will be a private/public partnership engaging major corporate leaders in each field of technology. The learning experiences in the Education Innovation Center will be sponsored, supported, and enhanced through the curriculum modules developed by the Ark Innovation Foundation, corporate leaders, and the Pinellas School District. This program will be reinforced during specific classes during the school day. Students will experience lessons in these technologies and have to study and interview for a specific area of interest prior to their experience at the Education Innovation Center.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?** Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	40%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	20%
Other	2,000,000	40%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	5,000,000	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?** Yes
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

\$2,000,000 for one additional year. Alternative funding could come from private corporate sponsorship and contributions.



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

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

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
 N/A

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		0
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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation and outfitting (FF&E) of PCS owned building (portion of Stavros Institute) wherein an Innovation Center will be developed to be a student experience as well as dedicated space for the Innovation Foundation (IF).	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Renovate and outfit an existing Pinellas County Schools owned building to create an Innovation Center that serves as a hands-on experience for students across the district to promote innovation areas noted above. Each technology area will be sponsored and designed in partnership with a corporation that is considered a leader in the development and application of the technology. As a public-private partnership, building renovation will also include space for Innovation Foundation.

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

This appropriation would fund the development of an education innovation center on a Pinellas County Schools campus which exposes students to areas of technology such as robotics, artificial intelligence, energy storage, 3D Printing, autonomous vehicles, space exploration, DNA sequencing, blockchain technology, and next generation internet. The Innovation Center will extend curriculum and provide hands-on experiences which will serve as a statewide model for private-public partnership.

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

The Innovation Center will support curriculum modules developed by the Innovation Foundation and will be delivered during specific classes during the school day. Students will experience lessons in these technologies and have to study and interview for a specific area of interest prior to their experience at the Innovation Center.

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

Grade school students in Pinellas County Schools, students from surrounding school districts, and students attending surrounding charter and private schools. Over 6,000 students would have the opportunity to visit the Center annually. The Center will also serve as a demonstration site for other school districts to replicate.

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

Opening of an Innovation Center to deepen learning and science curriculum for middle school students in Pinellas County Schools. Methodology:
 - Renovation of PCS owned building
 - Number of technology areas in the center that are sponsored/designed to support the application of the technology
 - Number students who experience the Innovation Center

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?

Funds would be returned to the state.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

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)



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- 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