



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1175

1. Project Title Florida Atlantic University Lab Schools - Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation

2. Senate Sponsor Shevrin Jones

3. Date of Request 11/18/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation will build upon the FAU Lab Schools' success and provide professional development to teachers, administrators and educational leaders at schools throughout Florida, with the goal of supporting the replication of the FAU Lab Schools model across the State of Florida. By empowering educators to engage students in tackling real-world challenges and collaborating on solutions, the Center will foster essential skills like critical thinking and problem-solving while nurturing their creativity and innovation necessary for today's rapidly changing landscape.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Board of Governors

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	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 2026-2027	2,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	2,000,000	147	No

9. Is future-year 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	One full-time director position responsible for leading the Center in communicating and executing its goals and strategies for successful implementation of the Center's initiatives, ensuring financial sustainability, fundraising, and leveraging successes to develop and expand partnerships. This funding is included in the number listed under Operational Costs > Salaries and Benefits.	0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Content development, communication systems development, technical support, create and maintain delivery platform for content and resources; supplies, materials, and technology to maintain the operations and delivery of services.	934,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Content developers, professional learning leaders, and implementation coaches; Hiring, recruitment, and preparing high-performing personnel to successfully implement the Institute initiatives. Managerial and professional staff to support administrative duties.	1,066,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000



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13. Program Performance

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

FAU and FAU Lab Schools have developed world-class K-12 educational programs and built state-of-the-art facilities that serve as a blueprint for how to approach education. The new Center will build upon the FAU lab school district's success as a model for K-12 education and provide professional development to teachers, administrators and educational leaders at schools throughout Florida. The goal of the institute is to support the replication of the FAU Lab Schools model across the state.

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

The goal of the Center is to develop and equip educational leaders and teachers to facilitate project-based, competition-centric learning crucial for preparing students for the challenges they will face in the future. By engaging students in tackling real-world challenges and collaborating on solutions, the Center will teach essential skills like critical thinking and problem-solving by further preparing educators and K-12 leaders to foster these skills in their students.

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

Students, teachers and educational leaders and entire communities will benefit as the Center produces workforce-ready students in fields such as healthcare, engineering, computer science, architectural design, robotics, and artificial intelligence throughout the state of Florida.

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

The target population that the Center will serve includes K-12 teachers, administrators and leaders in the State of Florida, but the individuals served will extend beyond this population to also include the students and families that they serve through the overall improvement in the quality of K-12 education in Florida.

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

By expanding the FAU Lab Schools approach throughout Florida, we can measure the tangible benefits of incorporating project-based, competition-centric learning into educational practices and highlight its potential to positively impact student outcomes in grades K-12 for replication. Future model execution will be measured by a robust analytics system utilizing both baseline and post hoc data including school and contextual factors such as student participation, attendance, grade point average, discipline, competitive achievements, and performance on state-standardized assessments (FAST & EOC) in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

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 in the contract?

If Florida Atlantic University does not accomplish the plan as proposed, the state of Florida may recall funds associated with this request.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?



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- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

18. 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



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☒ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.