



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1617

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This M-DCPS Mental Health Pilot Program will utilize the BASC-3 BESS (Behavioral and Emotional Screening System) as a prevention measure aiming to efficiently and accurately identify students in grades 4-8, at risk of behavioral, emotional, or social difficulties. The project will include professional development sessions for school staff to enhance proficiency in administering the screener, interpreting results, and developing targeted interventions. Additionally, the program will provide resources for students and families to address identified needs. Screenings will be conducted only with parent consent.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	98%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	9,000	2%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	409,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. Is future-year 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.



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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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	School support staff to collect and gather student data. Provide access to supplementary resources for students and their families. Includes fringes and benefits.	134,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Pearson BASC-3 BESS Screener (\$2.50 per student, 65,000 students in grades 4-8.)	162,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional Development (3 school site members per school - administration, teacher, counselor), 20 Professional Development Sessions for the District.	103,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		400,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The funds requested are intended to use the BASC-3 BESS (Behavioral and Emotional Screening System) as a prevent measure to efficiently and accurately identify students in grades 4-8 who may be at risk for developing or already experiencing significant behavioral, emotional, or social difficulties. The professional development will enhance staff knowledge and proficiency in utilizing the assessment instrument, gathering data, and providing students and families with supplementary resources. Screenings will be conducted only with parental consent.

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

The project directly benefits educators, parents, and students who are involved in a child's education and well-being. The information obtained from the BASC-3 BESS can be used to prioritize students for further assessment, guide intervention planning to develop targeted interventions, track a student's progress over time and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions.

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

The screening will be used as a prevent measure to efficiently and accurately identify students in grades 4-8, who may be at risk for developing or already experiencing significant behavioral, emotional, or social difficulties. Professional development and training for staff will enhance knowledge and proficiency in utilizing the assessment instrument, gathering data, and providing resources to families.

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

This initiative will benefit over 800 students in grades 4-8 in Miami-Dade by improving early identification, as well as teachers/administrators/counselors who will be receiving professional development and training.

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

The project aims to improve mental health outcomes for students in grades 4-8 by using the BASC-3 BESS to identify and address behavioral, emotional, and social challenges early, enabling timely and targeted interventions. Outcomes will be measured through data reports tracking the Behavioral and Emotional Risk Index, teacher and parent feedback on behavioral changes, and progress monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

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?

Denial of future funds.

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?

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



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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

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	<input type="text" value="Yolanda Cash Jackson"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Becker & Poliakoff PA"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="yjackson@beckerlawyers.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(954)985-4132"/>

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