



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1812

1. Project Title Miami-Dade County Public Schools VPK Expansion of Parental Choice Programs

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 12/9/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The project expands Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs by creating new Reggio Emilia and Montessori classrooms across multiple schools throughout the district. These hands-on, inquiry-based models foster creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking while supporting the Florida Department of Education's goal of Kindergarten readiness and strengthening parental choice through additional early learning options.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	16%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,298,930	84%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,548,930	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 250,000

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

Funds from Miami-Dade County

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will be used for the purchase of classroom furniture (\$13,500), learning materials (\$9,000), and specialized technology and equipment (\$2,500), estimated at \$25,000 per classroom, to implement Reggio Emilia and Montessori programs and allow for expansion to multiple schools throughout the district.	250,000
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)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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

The project expands Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs by creating new Reggio Emilia and Montessori classrooms across multiple schools throughout the district. These hands-on, inquiry-based models foster creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking while supporting the Florida Department of Education's goal of Kindergarten readiness and strengthening parental choice through additional early learning options.

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



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The project will establish new Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) classrooms throughout multiple Miami-Dade County Public Schools using Reggio Emilia and Montessori approaches. This expansion will increase access to quality early learning opportunities and enhance parental choice programs for families across the district.

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

Students will receive daily instruction in hands-on, inquiry-based environments designed to strengthen early literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills. Families will benefit from greater access to education philosophies through VPK programs that prepare children for Kindergarten readiness while expanding educational options throughout several schools in the district.

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

Over 800 preschool students throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Both the Reggio Emilia and Montessori prekindergarten programs improve the quality of education by viewing the child as a competent, active participant in their own learning. They share a foundation in child-centered learning and use a carefully prepared environment as a key to better prepare students for success in Kindergarten. The measurement used may include FAST Star Early Literacy scores to show a higher percent of students scoring at Kindergarten readiness proficiency.

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

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

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



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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.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number

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