



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1891

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Lake County Schools is seeking funding to amplify a deficient radio signal grid within the interior of several of our campuses. Some of our infrastructure is dated, and signal penetration within some buildings is intermittent. This leads to the potential for our first responding agencies not having communication on the interior of buildings in the event of a critical event. Currently, five campuses have failed third-party testing and are in need of resolution.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,320,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,320,000</b>

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)	2,320,000	89%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	180,000	7%
Local	100,000	4%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

**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)?

Yes

##### c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2026

##### d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2027

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

The equipment will be operated with the School Board's General Operating Fund and maintained by the Local Capital Improvement Fund.

#### 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.

The School Board of Lake County owns and operates the facilities.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Testing, engineering, and installation of Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) and/or Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA) at school sites with deficient emergency radio signal penetration.	2,320,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,320,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

The funds will be used to install bi-directional amplification (BDA) and distributed antenna systems (DAS) throughout our school facilities to ensure reliable two-way radio communication for first responders during an emergency. This investment will allow fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel to maintain clear communication inside buildings where signal strength is often reduced by concrete, steel, and other structural materials. The goal is to enhance student and staff safety by eliminating communication dead zones, improving emergency response times, and ensuring full compliance with public safety communication standards required by local and state codes.

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



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Bi-Directional Amplification and Distributed Antenna Systems will be engineered and installed throughout the campus areas with diminished radio signal penetration.

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

The installation of bi-directional amplification (BDA) and distributed antenna systems (DAS) will provide seamless radio coverage for fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel inside all school buildings. In an emergency, this technology allows responders to coordinate rescue operations, deliver medical assistance, and manage threats more quickly and safely protecting the lives of students and school personnel, while also improving response coordination with city and county emergency agencies that serve our citizens.

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

The targeted population served by this project includes all students, staff, and visitors within our school facilities, as well as the first responders who serve our community during emergencies. By improving in-building radio communication, the project enhances safety for approximately 50,000 students and 5,000 employees each day, while also supporting law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical personnel who rely on uninterrupted communication to protect lives. Ultimately, the project benefits the entire community by ensuring that schools remain safe, secure, and fully accessible to emergency services.

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

The expected outcome of this project is a significant improvement in emergency communication reliability and response times within all school facilities. By installing bi-directional amplification (BDA) and distributed antenna systems (DAS), first responders will have uninterrupted two-way radio coverage throughout buildings, ensuring clear communication during fire, law enforcement, or medical emergencies. The outcome will be measured through formal signal strength testing and certification by a licensed public safety communications contractor, both before and after installation.

**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?**

In addition to the contracting agency's standard penalties, the following measures are recommended to ensure accountability and timely completion of the project: Withholding of Payment: A portion of the contract amount may be withheld until all deliverables, including successful signal strength testing and certification, are verified and accepted by the district and the local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Liquidated Damages: Monetary penalties may be assessed for each day the contractor fails to meet established project milestones or final completion deadlines without justifiable cause. Corrective Action Requirement: The contractor shall be required to promptly correct any deficiencies identified during inspection or testing at no additional cost to the district. Failure to meet performance standards or deliverables may result in disqualification from future contracts with the district or sponsoring agency.

**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



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☐ 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

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)



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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.*