



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1972

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The STEM and AI Esports Workforce Development Project expands access to high-quality, technology-driven learning curriculum experiences that prepare high schools students for emerging technology and AI careers in the digital economy. The project integrates esports learning curriculum, industry certifications, and internships to build workforce skills by engaging Florida high school students through relevant, hands-on learning that strengthen Florida's talent pipeline and address workforce gaps in the technology sectors.

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	850,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	850,000

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)	850,000	77%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	23%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,100,000	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.

Funding in lieu of state support can be provided through local school district allocations, regional career and technical education (CTE) funds, or workforce development investments that align with Florida's STEM and technology talent goals. These sources can support curriculum adoption, student certification costs, and internship preparation tied to emerging technology careers.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1972

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	Levy School District project lead staff	35,000
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	1) Curriculum access to 75 FL schools including instructional materials, professional development, competition infrastructure, and support services for Game-and-Learn™, ELEE, and/or USAEL programming which earn industry certifications 2) 100 hour internships for high school students 3) associated equipment for program curriculum deployment	815,000
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)		850,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1972

The specific purpose of the project is to use technology to address workforce development needs by expanding digital career skills among high school students. It aims to prepare Florida's future workforce for technology-driven careers, aligning education with industry demand rather than addressing internal state IT needs.

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

Florida high school students will have an opportunity to participate and complete innovative esports curriculum and learning in vital technology, AI, and IT workforce skills. Students will also earn industry recognized certifications and participate in internships.

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

Florida high school students will receive hands-on STEM, AI, and esports-based career training that leads to industry certifications and paid or credit-bearing internships, directly preparing them for emerging technology jobs.

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

The project serves Florida high school students, particularly those in underserved or underrepresented communities who need access to workforce training in technology and AI careers. The program is expected to expand to serve multiple schools statewide, reaching hundreds of students in its first year, with capacity to expand annually as additional districts participate.

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

The project will increase the number of Florida students who are prepared for technology and AI careers by building workforce skills, earning industry certifications, and completing internships. Outcomes will be measured through student enrollment and completion rates, credential attainment, internship placement data, and post-program employment or continued education tracking.

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?

The contracting agency may apply proportional payment reductions tied to unmet performance targets, withhold final payment until outcomes are verified, and require corrective action plans if certification or internship placement goals are not met.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1972

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1972

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	<input type="text" value="None"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

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