



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2006

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This program provides Florida's K-12 students with an immersive, inspirational experience in the American Space Program, by integrating space missions into the STEM curriculum both virtually and in person at the Kennedy Space Center to enhance learning and engagement. Tailored to grade level, it fosters a deep interest in space exploration while equipping students with in-site into the critical STEM skills needed. By exposing students to real-world applications and career opportunities in the aerospace industry, the initiative inspires them to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering, and math, expanding their awareness of the vast possibilities within space exploration.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	30%
Matching Funds		
Federal	1,066,374	63%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	125,000	7%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,691,374	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		
2025-26	0	350,000	111	No

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	1 Lead Educator @ 85,000 and 1 supporting Educator who will deliver stem education lessons, develop new curriculum, refine evaluation models, and integrate new technologies into learning experiences.	155,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$60,000 - allow for the purchase of STEM education kits used in hands-on activities and demonstrations. Update the technologies in all seven educational spaces @ 30,000 each - to be used to create the education areas of the future by using technology to transform the current spaces into a hands-on interactive environment with enhanced virtual delivery capabilities.	270,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Services for permanent interactive multi-media content that will entail video production, graphic design, coding, and creation of mobile applications to be used inside classrooms.	75,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Support for this program will provide 25,500 Florida K-12 students firsthand experience of the American Space Program. Technology upgrades and added resources will expand the program's reach by over 50% from last year, and allow for on-demand and streaming educational content to be available to all students and teachers statewide. The goal is to cultivate students' passion for space exploration and guide them toward future opportunities in the space workforce through customized programs and STEM initiatives.

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

This free program will engage students in hands-on lessons tailored to grade-level and introduce them to NASA missions and associated STEM content earning centered around current and future missions from educators, subject matter experts, or even an Astronaut. Students will also explore the KSC Visitor Center to learn about space exploration during their visit.

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

Over 25,500 Florida K-12 students (up from 17,000) will take part in hands-on lessons that deepen their understanding of space exploration, aerospace missions, and the skills vital to the American space program. Tailored by grade level, these STEM-focused lessons help students connect their experiences at KSC with classroom learning, ensuring they can apply their knowledge beyond their visit.

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

The initiative expects to reach over 25,500 K-12 students from school districts across Florida, as well as students from schools of choice and a growing home-school population. This will be accomplished by providing immersive, inspiring experiences at the Kennedy Space Center and virtually.

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

The primary expected benefits of this project are to significantly expand access to high-quality space and STEM education by inspiring students and educators with the knowledge necessary to increase awareness in space exploration and related STEM fields. Therefore, enhancing Florida's role as a national leader in space education and exploration. The success of this project will be measured through the number of students engaged in the program as well as pre and post visit surveys to students that participate. Gains in STEM knowledge, as well as potential increases related to their interest in pursuing a career in space or a STEM related fields will also be tracked

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met would be returned to the State.

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.