



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1426

1. **Title of Project:** UF Lastinger Center - Algebra Nation

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Anitere Flores

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/24/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Algebra Nation is an innovative online mathematics teaching and learning program that is proven to build students' math knowledge, skills and application for Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Last year, more than 400,000 students and 20,000 teachers used Algebra Nation, with schools frequently using the platform having a 26-point higher Algebra 1 EOC pass rate than schools not using the platform. Additional funding of Algebra Nation would be used to expand platform access to all Florida public, private, charter, and home school students and teachers; incorporate personalized SAT/PSAT prep tool; expand resources to middle grades; build unlimited personalized practice tool that will allow teachers to and closely track student progress; restore Geometry and Algebra 2 resources, school visits with tutors and professional development opportunities to help teachers incorporate Algebra Nation in their classroom; and offer additional support for students with disabilities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Board of Governors

State Agency Contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,000,000	100.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		1,000,000		No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 3,000,000

#### 10. 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	Salary and benefits for program coordinator to oversee the development and implementation of proposed activities	5,000
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits for: mathematics education faculty to provide content development and review; implementation support staff to provide professional development, trainings, access and integration support, and communications with teachers, administrators, and other staff; research and evaluation team to collect and analyze impact of Algebra Nation on student achievement	1,195,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel across the state to provide professional development and other support to teachers and students	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services to build and implement proposed activities, including expansion of platform access, restoration of geometry and algebra 2 resources, development of content for targeted assessment tool, and professional development sessions	1,650,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,000,000</b>

#### 11. Program Performance:

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

Mathematical thinking and mastery of algebraic concepts are core skills essential for success in school and the 21st century workforce, including critical thinking and problem-solving skills, reasoning, and communication of solutions. Algebra Nation is proven to build students' algebraic skills, as demonstrated by multiple studies. As Florida continues to expand students' options of schools to best meet their needs, Algebra Nation also desires to expand its platform to offer targeted support in middle grade math, pre-algebra, algebra 1, geometry, and algebra 2 to students and teachers in the state, including those in private, charter, and home school settings. With the requested funding, Algebra Nation will be able to offer its online tools and resources, including 100%



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standards-aligned instructional videos, practice tool with real-time feedback, after-hours online homework help and tutoring, and private teacher area filled with dozens of lesson and activities.

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

Additional funding of Algebra Nation would be used to expand platform access to all Florida public, private, charter, and home school students and teachers; incorporate personalized SAT/PSAT prep tool; expand resources to middle grades to strengthen foundational skills needed for success in algebra; build unlimited personalized practice tool that will allow teachers to assign specific standards and topics and closely track student progress; restore Geometry and Algebra 2 resources, including student homework help walls, additional tutor videos, and professional development for teachers; restore school visits with tutors and professional development opportunities to help teachers incorporate Algebra Nation in their classroom; and offer additional support for students with disabilities.

**c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

Public, private, charter and home school students and teachers from grades 6-12 will have free, full access to the Algebra Nation online platform and its tools and resources, including middle grades, pre-algebra, algebra 1, geometry, and algebra 2. Access includes: expert tutors; instructional videos aligned to Florida's standards; after school and weekend online tutoring; and teacher professional development area with hundreds of lessons and activities.

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

The target population is 6-12 grade students and teachers from public, private, charter, and home school settings across all 67 Florida counties. This equates to approximately 500,000 students and 30,000 teachers in Florida.

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

Algebra Nation has already proven to improve student achievement in algebra 1, with the most recent study showing a 26-point higher average passing rate of the Algebra 1 FSA in public schools that frequently used Algebra Nation (Qui, Y., 2018).

**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?**

Liquidated damages

**12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

N/A

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Philip Poekert
- b. **Organization:** University of Florida Lastinger Center
- c. **E-mail Address:** poekert@coe.ufl.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (352)273-4103



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#### 14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** University of Florida Lastinger Center
- b. **County:** Alachua
- c. **Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Philip Poekert
- e. **E-mail Address:** poekert@coe.ufl.edu
- f. **Phone Number:** (352)273-4103

#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Jerry McDaniel
- b. **Firm Name:** Southern Strategy Group
- c. **E-mail Address:** mcdaniel@sostrategy.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)671-4401