



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2139

**1. Title of Project:** Jefferson County Somerset School Special Services

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Travis Hutson

**3. Date of Submission:** 02/20/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

When Somerset Academy Incorporated was chosen to run the entire school district in Jefferson County, it became apparent there would be some unique challenges to serving the students in this county where 22.1% is at poverty level. Poverty and education are inextricably linked as it can affect children on several levels. Poor nutrition affects brain development of executive functioning leading to lack of ability to concentrate or focus, poor impulse control, lack of emotional regulation, and working memory as a child's energy is focused on basic survival functions. In order to meet the needs of the students in Jefferson County, multitudinous evaluations are necessary to ensure all students exhibiting learning and social-emotional needs are being identified. For those who qualify, additional special education services need to be offered in order to decrease the significant gaps in learning and social-emotional behavior evident in this predominantly at-risk community.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,287,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,287,000</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)	1,287,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>1,287,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**8. Has this project previously received state funding?** No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		

**9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No



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**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		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	4 special education teachers/interventionists and 9 paraprofessionals	612,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Therapists and Psychologists (2 speech and language pathologists, 4 psychologists, 2 Board Certified Behavior Analysts, 1 Social Worker, and 6 Registered Behavior Technicians)	675,000
<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>1,287,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

The specific goal is to identify and evaluate all children with suspected learning issues (learning disability, dyslexia, intellectual or emotional disability), and to provide additional special education services necessary in order to decrease the significant gaps in learning and social emotional behavior the students in Jefferson County have consistently displayed throughout the past decade. There are over 150 referrals from parents and teachers to the school's Student Services Department requesting additional support for targeted students that display significant learning issues and critical maladjustment and social-emotional problems.

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

The activities and services that will be provided include: psycho-educational testing for learning and social-emotional issues, systematic and explicit instruction through targeted interventions, behavioral support to optimize the learning process, related therapies to assist with the reduction of significant learning gaps, therapeutic and counseling services for students and families, and tutoring after school.

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

Psychoeducational testing, reading and math instruction and tutoring, therapeutic and academic counseling, speech and language therapies, applied behavior analysis therapy, and parental support to ensure continuity of learning process and social-emotional growth in the home environment.

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



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The target population will be approximately 201-400 PreK-12th grade students and their parents. These include: at-risk youth, homeless, developmentally delayed, physically disabled, preschool students, grade school students, high school students, and their parents.

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

The first expected benefit from the project will be improved mental health by a reduction of maladjustment social-emotional behaviors that are impeding the learning process. This will be measured through a decline in parent and teacher referrals to the Student Services Department and the attainment of goals documented on Behavior Intervention Plans. The second benefit from the project will be improved student achievement and social-emotional growth for students in PreK-12. This will be measured through the K-12 FLDOE State Accountability System.

**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?**

None. No contracting agency other than non-profits Somerset Academy Incorporated and Jefferson County School Board.

**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.**

The School Board of Jefferson County.

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Lourdes Isla-Marrero
- b. **Organization:** Somerset Academy Incorporated
- c. **E-mail Address:** lisa@somersetacademyschools.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)298-0594

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Somerset Academy Schools Incorporated
- b. **County:** Jefferson
- 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:** Lourdes Isla-Marrero
- e. **E-mail Address:** lisa@somersetacademyschools.com
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)298-0594



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#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Andreina Figueroa
- b. **Firm Name:** ADF Consulting LLC
- c. **E-mail Address:** [adf@adfconsulting.com](mailto:adf@adfconsulting.com)
- d. **Phone Number:** (786)586-7001