



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1845

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Our district embraces parental choice in their children's education. Our Montessori program at Swimming Pen Creek Elementary is one of the most popular magnet options. The demand for this program far outpaces the available seats. The initial costs associated with establishing a Montessori program are high. A Montessori classroom is required to be furnished and have curriculum materials that follow certain guidelines. Preparing and supporting teachers for Montessori instruction is a costly three year commitment that involves a good bit of after hours work and travel. Funds would be used to expand the program to a Title I elementary school on the opposite side of the school district providing an elite program for the underserved. Due to an established and aging community, the intended school is frequently under 80% enrollment which opens them up for Controlled Open Enrollment throughout the year. This Choice program could serve to boost and stabilize enrollment.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	494,190
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,400
Total State Funds Requested	496,590

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	496,590	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	496,590	100%

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

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

9. **Is future 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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Recurring funds would be used to staff a Montessori specialist to work within our CCDS Office of School Choice and provide stipends for teachers' attendance at the extensive afterhours training. Alternative funding would come from our General Funds.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Clay County District Schools received approximately \$61,000,000 for COVID mitigation strategies and instructional support for students pandemic-related learning loss (e.g. summer school, tutoring).

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction

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?

12. 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.

Clay County District Schools is the owner of the facility. Any equipment and renovations funded through this initiative will remain under the direction of Clay County District Schools.

13. 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: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits for a specialist to coordinate the Montessori Choice Program	66,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Montessori-approved furniture, curriculum, stipends for after-hour trainings	360,190
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Training-related costs (tuition + materials) for 8 teachers and a school administrator to receive a three-year training in Montessori instructional methods	68,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Painting 8 classrooms	2,400
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		496,590

14. Program Performance

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

Clay County District Schools embraces parental choice in their children's education. Funds would be used to expand the Montessori program, a magnet option whose interest far outpaces the available seats. The school district would place this second Montessori site at a Title I school across town, providing underserved students with access to an elite educational program. It would also provide enrollment stability for a school with a mobile, transient student population.

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

Funds would be used to establish a Montessori program at a Title I school in Clay. This would require Montessori-approved curriculum, furnishings and training for teachers and administrators to ensure the program's success.

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

Research shows that students with a Montessori education experience long-term benefits, including leadership skills, self-initiated learning, independent thinking, and self-determination. These students also exhibit stronger than average problem-solving skills, which support their growth as citizens. <https://amshq.org/About-AMS/Press-kit/Montessori-Research>

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

All of our Clay County students would have the opportunity to apply to this program. The students at the Title I school would have priority. At the end of its rollout, this program would serve approximately 300 students ages 3-12.

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

The program would provide enrollment stability in a community with a highly mobile student population. Additionally, the Montessori program is expected to increase student attendance, decrease disciplinary incidents and improve students' overall executive functioning skills. All of the qualities contribute to the making of citizens who will positively impact their community. We can measure this using attendance data, disciplinary data, and student observation.

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 the contract?

Failure to meet deliverables or performance measures will result in return of funds to state agency.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number