



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2639

1. **Title of Project:** Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Reading Programs

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Manny Diaz

3. **Date of Submission:** 03/25/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Digital application that delivers differentiated and culturally relevant SEL reading materials for students.

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

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

| Type of Funding | Amount |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Operations | 250,000 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | |
| Total State Funds Requested | 250,000 |

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) | 250,000 | 100.0% |
| Federal | 0 | 0.0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0.0% |
| Local | 0 | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 | 250,000 | 100.0% |

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?** Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 250000.00

10. **Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

| Spending Category | Description | Amount |
|---|-------------|--------|
| Administrative Costs: | | |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits | | |
| Other Salary and Benefits | | |



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| | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | Computers, Computer Software, Office Equipment, Supplies, Printing Collateral Promotion | 50,000 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | Administrative Duties, Case Management Studies, Website Maintenance | 80,000 |
| Operational Costs: | | |
| Salary and Benefits | | |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | Purchase of books for Reading Corners (\$8,000 for each of 10) | 80,000 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | Social Media, Email Marketing, Communications, Public/Media Relations Campaigns, Literacy Events | 40,000 |
| Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation: | | |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering | | |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 250,000 |

11. Program Performance:

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

To provide differentiated and culturally relevant digital reading materials for grades 3-12 to support the successful implementation of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs in Florida schools. SEL programs that are integrated into academic instruction are critical for preventing bullying, establishing inclusive school culture, and developing young people’s social-emotional skills, such as self management, responsible decision making, and relationship building.

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

Digital application that delivers differentiated, timely, and culturally relevant reading materials and embedded teaching resources that can be used to support the successful implementation of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs in grades 3-12.

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

Access to Newsela’s Social-Emotional Learning Collections for elementary, middle, and high school grades. These Collections bring SEL instruction into the classroom by providing digital access to a growing library of differentiated, engaging, and timely reading materials that teachers can use to explain and illustrate the 5 research-based SEL competencies that contribute to school safety: Self Awareness, Self Management, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision Making, and Relationship Skills (CASEL p2). Texts are accessed through the digital Newsela platform and can be customized and sourced to be relevant to the needs of the state and student population. Each text is published at 5 reading levels, and embedded SEL teaching resources on each passage help educators use research-backed approaches for applying SEL competencies. Open-ended questions and checks for understanding on every passage allow for reflection and support literacy instruction alongside the development of SEL skills.

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



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- Economically disadvantaged persons - At-risk youth - Grade school students - High school students 60,000 Florida Students

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

These Collections support the successful implementation of Social-Emotional Learning programs, which lead to benefits ranging from improved classroom behavior, increased academic achievement, increased ability to manage stress and depression, and better attitudes about themselves, others, and school (<https://casel.org/impact/>). Schools can observe SEL instruction's impact on behavioral measures of bullying, absenteeism, suspensions, expulsions, and dropout and graduation rates (Hanover1 p6). To be successful, SEL programs must connect with classroom academic learning (CASEL p4, Elias p21) and provide a variety of learning modalities, like reading, writing, discussion, vocabulary practice, and worksheets (Hanover2, p4).

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?

Requirement to implement additional programs at no additional cost.

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:** Darla Luliucci
- b. **Organization:** Newsela Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** darla.i@newsela.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (919)338-4310

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Department of Education
- b. **County:** Statewide
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify) Office of Safe Schools
- d. **Contact Name:** Richard Corcoran
- e. **E-mail Address:** Commissioner@fldoe.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (850)245-0505



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2639

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Sebastian Aleksander
- b. **Firm Name:** The Aleksander Group
- c. **E-mail Address:** sa@agcapitol.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)459-1559