



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1239

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This pilot program project uses a proven consumer off-the-shelf software application, which uses machine learning and AI, as well as a two-person human review process to identify indications of suicide, self-harm, abuse, harassment, and acts of violence that are found within student-issued, school-provided creation and communication tools.

Looking at national data, and holding constant for the same number and group of students, the fall of 2020 and the impact of COVID-19 have indicated a 47% increase in incidents of suicide/self-harm, a 69% increase in incidents involving nudity and sexual content, and a 23% increase in acts of violence. While states have invested in protecting students in the classroom, virtually little to no investment has been made to patrol the digital classroom. This project provides protection and advanced warning in the school-issued digital creation and communication environments by identifying potentially dangerous incidents prior to their occurrence.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	33%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	3,000,000	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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there are no other source of funds for this project however the project does require a match of 30% from school districts to receive the grant

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

Yes

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

1.8 million used for payroll of approximately 115+ employees

11. 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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consumer off the shelf software licensing agreement for alerting school personnel all the school students digital communication tools, creation tools, documents on school issued accounts which indicate suicide, self harm, violence, explicit content, within the schools.	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

The goal of this mental health pilot initiative would be to protect Florida youth from suicide and self-harm. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in the country for our youth. Nationally, there are over 3,703 suicide attempts by students in grades 9-12 every day (<http://prp.jasonfoundation.com/facts/youth-suicide-statistics/>). In Florida, the goal is to protect our K-12 students from suicide and self-harm by catching these warning signs as early as possible.

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

A combination of technology and humans who are reviewing flagged content 24/7/365 within the school-issued student Microsoft and Google environments, the most common technologies used in schools. This multi-level approach allows for machine learning to quickly flag potentially harmful content followed by two layers of human review, alerting school districts to student safety issues in the shortest amount of time possible, which is often minutes.

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

School districts participating in the pilot will have 24/7/365 analysis and review of student content in school-issued student Google and Microsoft environments in order to protect students, helping districts identify those who are struggling with mental health or are potentially dangerous to themselves or others.

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 for this initial pilot is the middle schools and high schools in the state of Florida. This pilot program is designed to protect student lives and ensure struggling students receive the necessary mental health support at the earliest warning signs before it's too late.

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

The goal of this mental health pilot initiative would be to protect roughly 600,000 of Florida's 2.7 million students. This protection allows for early intervention and intervention with situations of immediate crisis. With the majority of incidents of self-harm and suicide being identified at the middle and high school levels, this pilot would serve the students most in need of intervention. The long-term goal would be to serve and protect all of Florida's students 24/7/365. Nationally, Gaggle flagged over 36,000 incidents of suicide and self-harm in the first four months of the 2020-21 school year, which was up over 80% from the same time frame during the 2019-20 school year.

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?

immediate termination of the contract with the state.

13. 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.

none



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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)

d. First Name Last Name
e. E-mail Address
f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number