



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1037

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Sarasota Academy of the Arts (SAA) is a kindergarten through 8th Grade Charter School in Sarasota County that provides a unique focus on visual and performing arts education, coupled with following the Florida B.E.S.T. curriculum. The Phase II renovation will complete the needed renovations to SAA's new campus at the Jewish Federation property to include additional restrooms, classrooms, and a clinic. This phase will increase the operational student capacity (FTE) from 181 to 254. In order for SAA to be financially solvent, and to successfully fulfill its mission, it must operate near capacity.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	800,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	800,000	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 2025-2026	800,000	100%

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. **Is future-year 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

08/31/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Ongoing - State and local FTE money
 Maintenance - Appropriation request and possible Construction loan if needed

11. 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.

The facility is owned by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

12. 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		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	construction and renovation	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

13. Program Performance

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

The funds will allow SAA lot expand its operational capacity from 181 to 254. For the school to be financially solvent and to successfully fulfill its mission, it must operate near capacity.

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



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K-8 charter school education emphasizing visual and performing arts, as well as providing students with the Florida B.E.S.T Standards Curriculum. Our elementary student population will increase because of the new allotted space resulting from the completion of Phase II. This will in turn encourage further development of our visual and performing arts program for our students.

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

The curriculum of SAA is approved and consistent with the guidelines required by the Sarasota County Schools and the Department of Education. Students will engage daily in direct instruction in the Florida B.E.S.T. curriculum. The students will also have instruction daily in Spanish, art, music, and physical education classes which unique compared to other Sarasota County schools.

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

Students in kindergarten through 8th grade who live in Sarasota and Manatee counties will be served by the Phase II project. After the project is completed, the school capacity will raise to 254.

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

The anticipated benefits for this project are that it will enhance the educational environment for all students this increasing the quality of education at SAA. This can be measured by the Department of Education's yearly school grade. Phase II will provide SAA not only with additional classrooms but with additional restrooms for students, faculty, and staff encouraging a safe and healthy environment. Also, having a proper clinic will create a safe and hygienic place to meet the needs of ill students requiring cadre or for parent pick up.

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?

return of funds

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:



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16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.