



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1185

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds will be used to expand the pipeline of qualified new teachers entering the education profession in Florida. The Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) is an innovative initiative to mitigate the current teacher shortage across Miami-Dade County (years 1-2), across Florida (years 3-4), and eventually, across the nation (years 5+). TAP provides college seniors not majoring in education and career-changing professionals with bachelor's degrees not in education with a clear pathway to teaching. TAP has 5 components: a teaching strategies course, a paid summer internship, accreditation/certification support, mentorship, and evaluation. TAP combines the resources of collaborative partners- Achieve Miami, Teach For America Miami-Dade (TFA-MD), the University of Miami (UM), Miami Dade College (MDC), and Florida International University (FIU)- to create a seamless pipeline of educators into Florida classrooms. Funds will directly support TAP's planned expansion to train 200-250 new teachers.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	16%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,650,365	84%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,150,365	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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

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.

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	Fiscal Agent Achieve Miami, Inc. for TAP to manage and oversee project implementation	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	TAP participant stipends for Summer Internship training experience @ \$5,000 per participants x 85 TAP participants= \$425,000	425,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funds will support TAP's planned expansion to train 200-250 new teachers in its fourth year of programming. In the three years since its inception, TAP has already trained 200+ new teachers and continues to expand each year. Funding will directly support the hands-on, summer internship training experience portion of TAP participants' training. Funding will support 85 of 200-250 TAP participants at \$5,000 per summer internship stipend plus summer training operating costs.

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



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During the summer internship, TAP participants are provided with hands-on teaching experiences with mentor teachers in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public School and Teach for America-Miami Dade. TAP participants work directly with experienced teachers and meet with education coaching staff to further develop their teaching skills. They meet 5 times per week throughout June and July and teach lessons to students enrolled in summer learning programs. In addition, TAP participants receive mentorship and ongoing support from TAP summer staff as well as access to professional development opportunities.

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

TAP provides direct services to individuals through teacher recruitment, preparation, and training. TAP begins with a 3-credit course at the University of Miami, Miami-Dade College, or Florida International University. The course is tailored to college seniors not majoring in education and career changing professionals who hold bachelor's degrees not in the field of education. TAP participants then participate in a paid TAP summer internship and receive accreditation and hiring support for guaranteed job placement in M-DCPS. During their first year of teaching, TAP participants receive ongoing mentorship, training, and support.

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

TAP serves college seniors and professionals with bachelor's degrees not in the area of education. TAP's target population is made up of individuals who would not otherwise consider a career in education. Though TAP trains teachers, this has an impact on the number of students who have access to a full-time, qualified teacher, enhancing student learning outcomes across South Florida.

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

Aligning with TAP's identified 5-year Goals and Objectives, TAP has facilitated the successful training of over 200 teachers in the first 3 years of the program. The expected outcome is that in year 4, TAP will train and place 200-250 new teachers which will be equally distributed among elementary schools and jr./sr. high schools. This program will ensure that hundreds of additional students will have qualified teachers who otherwise may have been seated in an empty classroom.

TAP uses data driven research methods. TAP's evaluation includes community-based participatory research practices through focus groups, surveys, a data tracking system and data analysis, and multi-institutional convenings among stakeholder groups.

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?

The state could allow for a "no cost" contract extension to allow Achieve more time to meet contract deliverables.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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



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- 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:

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)



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d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

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.