



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1452

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

Tree of Knowledge has 15+ years of experience educating 50,000+ students with autism and special needs and is an approved Title 1 provider of academic support services in FL, NJ, and OH. This appropriation, if funded, will support the creation and implementation of 3 ESE enrichment support classrooms dedicated specifically to students with autism and special needs at the Landow/Chabad Educational Center network of schools in South Florida. Each support classroom will consist of certified education professionals (trained, provided, and supervised by Tree of Knowledge) who collaboratively co-plan, co-instruct and co-assess students who are eligible for special education services outside of the usual course of instruction. The core curriculum will consist of reading, math, language arts, and ESOL (when appropriate). Numerous studies have documented improved educational, developmental, and social outcomes when students with autism and special needs are provided with specialized support.

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

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes  No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	373,605
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>373,605</b>

**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)	373,605	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	375,000	50%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>748,605</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  Yes  No

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?**  Yes  No

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.

N/A

#### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Professional development costs	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Tree of Knowledge will provide a supervisor who shall oversee the in class professional staff for a minimum of three hours per week. Supervision will include, but is not limited to, classroom observations, classroom support, modifications, profess monitoring, and guiding instructional staff. Supervisor has a Masters in Special Ed and is FDOE certified as a teacher of students with disabilities.	65,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program materials and supplies, including specialized instructional/curriculum materials and online per student learning software subscription costs.	47,355
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Cost to employ learning center professionals. This includes special education teachers, teacher aides (paraprofessionals), Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), and speech therapists. Learning center professionals will provide additive support and instruction to the program's ESE students multiple days each week, dependent on school schedule and hours, with data collection to monitor student progress.	251,250
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>373,605</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The creation and implementation of three ESE support classrooms dedicated specifically to students with autism and special needs at the Landow/Chabad Educational Center network of schools in South Florida. Each classroom will consist of certified education professionals (trained, provided, and supervised by Tree of Knowledge) who collaboratively co-plan, co-instruct and co-assess students who are eligible for special education services. The core curriculum will consist of reading, math, language arts, and ESOL (when appropriate).

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

Assist the general education teacher in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of classified students; Co-plan with the general education teacher to assure that objectives, materials, and instructional processes are appropriate for all students; Develop alternative forms of assignments and tests; Deliver instruction using alternate instructional strategies to meet individual student needs, etc.

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

Deliver instruction using alternate instructional strategies to meet individual needs of students; Develop and implement classroom and individual behavior management strategies with the general education teacher; Facilitate inclusion of classified students in general classroom; Monitor student's progress toward service plan goals and objectives through data collection, etc.

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

Tree of Knowledge has 15+ years of experience educating 50,000+ students with autism and special needs, and is an approved Title 1 provider of academic support services in FL, NJ, and OH. This appropriation, if funded, will support the creation and implementation of three ESE enrichment support classrooms dedicated specifically to students with autism and special needs at the Landow/Chabad Educational Center network of schools in South Florida. Approximately 30-50 students.

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

This program is in line with and supporting the stated mission of FDOE, which has engaged in efforts throughout the state designed to strengthen the quality and variety of services for ESE students. Numerous studies have documented improved educational, developmental, and social outcomes when students with autism and special needs are provided with additional, and specialized, ESE support, especially in the primary (K-8) grade levels.

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables, without notification of good reasoning, will result in financial penalties as described in contract.

**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):**



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**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:**

**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)



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- 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

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.*