



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1482

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

Arbor School of Central Florida proudly serves students ages 5 -22 with varying disabilities. Currently Arbor School is at physical capacity for both the Winter Springs and Lake Mary Campus. This funding would allow Arbor School to build capacity by opening a 3rd campus in Wekiva Springs. The new campus would initially serve K-5 grade and expand to middle and high school over a 3-5 year period. The funds would help cover the costs related to staffing, rent, and insurance.

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
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</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)	500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits for Campus Director	65,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries for 3 teachers @ \$47,500 each Salaries for 3 teaching assistants @ \$19 per hour Benefits for teachers/teaching assistants - \$20,000	257,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Curriculum - \$10,000 Classroom Technology – Laptops, SmartBoards, etc. - \$45,000 Classroom Desks, Chairs, Table, Bookcases - \$32,500	82,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Rent - \$45,000 Insurance - \$10,000 Fire alarm upgrade - \$30,000 Utilities - \$10,000	95,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

Approximately 15% of children receive special education under IDEA. ADHD, autism, and dyslexia affect roughly 5–9% of school-aged children, highlighting the need for specialized support. Arbor School meets this need by tailoring individualized learning plans, therapeutic services, multisensory instructional methods, small class sizes, and highly trained staff, where students with disabilities can thrive.



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

These funds will be used to open a campus in Wekiva Springs, enabling families with special needs children to access a quality education. This campus would serve approximately 170 students, doubling the current capacity.

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

Arbor School provides a quality education that includes small classrooms, a student/teacher ratio of 5/1, speech, language, occupational therapies, STEAM, performing arts, and workforce training for students with disabilities ages 5 - 22.

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

The Arbor School of Central Florida serves students ages 5 -22 with disabilities such as autism, Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, as well as ADHD and anxiety-related conditions. Estimated enrollment at the new campus will be 170 students.

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

Arbor School measures success through 40% academic growth, 30% social and behavioral improvement, 20% executive functioning and life skills, and 10% family and student feedback. This balanced approach ensures personalized progress, helping students achieve their goals, gain confidence, and develop essential skills for independence and lifelong success. Arbor School measures success through formative assessments, observations, and surveys.

**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?**

Arbor School will strive to create a quality learning environment that mirrors the success of the two current private schools. Failing to provide a quality learning environment would not produce the intended capacity increase, which in turn would affect Arbor School's opportunity to provide a desirable high-quality education in kindergarten through 12th grade.

**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#:**



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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)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**

a. Name



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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.*