



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1649

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

4. Project/Program Description

Known as the Commissioner's Academic Challenge, funding for the state academic tournament is used to provide a statewide, academic tournament for high-achieving students in grades 9 to 12 that is aligned for with Florida's curricular benchmarks. Funding provided is used to set up and operate the tournament, offset registration and travel costs for student participants, and provide high-achieving students with the recognition they deserve.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?** Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	58%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	150,000	34%
Other	35,000	8%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	435,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	250,000	105	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

School districts would be required to provide additional funding from local sources to continue the Commissioner's Academic Challenge.

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Tournament Director - 50% of salary and benefits. Responsible for Supervision of all Tournament activities.	54,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Stipends for teachers to be trained in specific tournament question formats and develop question items and assist in tournament production.	64,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel and registration for an estimated 45 teams and event staff to attend tournament. Name badges, lanyards and replace buzzer system.	122,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Technical services (equipment and labor during tournament), approximately 28 substitute days for teachers to staff tournament.	9,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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

Known as the Commissioner's Academic Challenge, state funding of the state academic tournament grant provides a statewide, curricular-based academic tournament for high-achieving students in grades 9 to 12. Funding provided is used to set up and operate the tournament, defray registration and travel costs for student participants, and provide high-achieving students with the recognition they deserve.

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



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Training & materials provided to educators who then provide student with rigorous, academically-focused extra-curricular activities. Training for teachers with subject area expertise to write & review tournament questions directly related to state curricular benchmarks. Production of electronic displays, graphic displays, & audio components to aid in presentation of questions during competition.

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

Offset costs for student travel and participation. Local teams use material developed to prepare and conduct local and regional competitions prior to the statewide final tournament.

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

Over 200 high performing high schools from about 45 of Florida's school districts, as well as charter and private school students.

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

To provide rigorous academic high school competition to our most accomplished students. 1. The tournament will recruit 45% of Florida's school districts to participate and include charter and private schools. Outcomes will be measured by providing team participation logs, listings on event website, participation by FDOE.

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?

If the contractor fails to meet and comply with activities/deliverables established in the contract or to make appropriate progress on the activities and/or towards the deliverables and they are not resolved within 2 weeks of notification, the contract manager may approve a reduction in payment, request contractor to redo the work, or terminate the 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):

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

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number

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