



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2382

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Students with disabilities face barriers that limit academic success and future employment. This project ensures better preparation for transition to post-secondary education through career exploration and pathing, leading students into CTE programs, post-secondary education, and careers. It is evidenced-based and aligns with state educational goals including those of the REACH Act and First Lady DeSantis' Hope Florida Initiative to remove barriers to self-sufficiency and pathways to economic opportunities. This program is an outgrowth of the highly successful, legislatively supported High School High Tech Program. It is an effort to increase the reach of the program through providing more choice for students and families for participation. It will remain impactful with regard to successful transition from high school to post-secondary education by students with disabilities. These services will be provided through partnerships with school districts, charter and private schools.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	300,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	600,000	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		
2024-25	0	300,000	30	No

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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The Able Trust uses investment earnings from its endowment and funds raised through grants and individual/corporate donations.

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	Project Director	60,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Grant Manager	15,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Program Evaluation	25,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Grants to public, private, and charter schools; Training/technical assistance from The Able Trust	200,000
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)		300,000

13. Program Performance

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



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This program will affect a measured increase of transition from middle school to high school, high school graduation, post-secondary enrollment (CTE, apprenticeships, state colleges, and universities); employment; and referral to the state vocational rehabilitation program of students with disabilities.

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

Pre-employment and transition services for middle and high school youth with disabilities and their families. These services will be provided through grants to local school districts, charter and private schools for career exploration and career pathing, leading students into CTE programs, post-secondary education, and careers. Data on Florida's in-demand/growing industries will be used to guide this work.

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

Students will participate in industry tours and presentations, connections to career supports including Vocational Rehabilitation services, Career and Technical Education, apprenticeships, and other post-secondary education programs. Parents will receive guidance on post-secondary resources and supports to avoid the "service cliff" after high school graduation.

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

Middle and high school students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Between 400 - 800 students with disabilities will be served by this project.

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

Middle School to High School Matriculation Rate 90% - tracked by program grantees
 Increased High School Graduation Rate 90% - tracked by program grantees
 Post-Secondary Enrollment 70%; - tracked by program grantees
 VR Referral 100%.- tracked by The Able Trust and FDOE/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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 unspent funds, return of funds not spent in accordance with 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#:



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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



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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.