



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2497

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Virtual Reality-powered learning platform delivers standards-aligned learning experiences focused on closing the achievement gap in STEM through embodied, first-person, and real-world problem solving. The platform further provides exposure to relevant problems that help students build identities in the mathematical sciences while adhering to rigorous pedagogical standards. The program provides dedicated staff to train and coach teachers to utilize cutting-edge technology in their classrooms. This request is for funding to bring VR-based STEM learning to up to 14,000 students across 14 rural FL districts to increase student engagement and boost test scores.

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	1,192,240
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,192,240

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)	1,192,240	83%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	17%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,442,240	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	0		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.

Federal funding, private investments, grants, public school budgets.



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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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Covers the cost of delivering onboarding, coaching, and other professional development opportunities to participating teachers to ensure they receive the necessary training to effectively implement the program.	294,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Covers the cost of all hardware, software, and support-related costs to deliver VR instruction to up to 14,000 students across up to 14 rural districts. Includes 30 headsets & 1 charging station at 28 school buildings (up to 2 per district).	898,240
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)		1,192,240

13. Program Performance

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



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Rural districts consistently underperform urban districts on state math assessments, and math scores statewide are in decline. Through efficacious, problem-based learning powered by virtual reality, students will improve scores, increase motivation, and renew a sense of dignity and capability in pursuit of STEM mastery through a program that has been independently proven to yield double digit growth (11%+) in student achievement on standards-aligned assessments.

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

Participating teachers will be provided with a full-day onboarding plus a minimum of 1-2 days of embedded on-site coaching to learn how to expertly integrate rigorous, standards-based VR learning experiences into their core instruction. Teachers will become experts with cutting edge VR technology. They will receive standards-aligned summary reports to inform future classroom instruction.

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

Students will use VR to physically experience real-world problems, then use tactile tools to develop enduring connections to concepts in STEM. They'll be exposed to a variety of relevant scenarios, engineering challenges, and practitioners who solve them: doctors, scientists, civil engineers, etc. The effect is increased engagement in STEM, improved outcomes, and a refreshed love of learning.

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

Up to 14,000 students across 14 of Florida's 30 rural districts. The program will be used in up to two schools per district; a middle and high school (ideally), or two middle / two high schools as the district's unique needs dictate.

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

Qualcomm will be funding studies to measure improvement in student outcomes over time among those who utilize this technology. Areas of study will include student engagement, enthusiasm, mastery, and standards-based test performance. Pre and post surveys and assessments will be administered and analyzed. While the program provider is in the process of ascertaining final results through similar analysis in FL school districts, third party studies from other states (OH) have already demonstrated statistically significant improvement in test scores.

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 Requester fails to meet deliverables outlined in contract requirements, contracting agency may withhold funds and/or elect to deny future funding requests.

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



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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)

d. First Name **Last Name**



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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.