



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2832

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The School District of Leon County is seeking funding to establish a fully accessible outdoor play area at the Gretchen Everhart School. Gretchen Everhart, the state's only Center School, serves students ages 3-22 with intellectual disabilities, with an enrollment capacity of approximately 200 students from Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Liberty, Franklin, and Madison counties, along with many from central and south Florida whose needs can't be met in a traditional school setting. Many students with intellectual or developmental disabilities also have co-occurring physical disabilities. While the current outdoor play area at Gretchen Everhart is wheelchair-accessible per ADA requirements, it has no accessible playground equipment and is in a state of disrepair. This project will completely renovate the play area to provide a safer rubberized play surface, cover to reduce heat and sun exposure, wider sidewalks, and specially designed and engineered equipment.

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	415,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,915,000

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)	1,915,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,915,000	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		

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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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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

7/15/25

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/25

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.

The School District of Leon County is both the owner and the entity requesting funding.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Sidewalk repair, landscaping (including sod over newly graded areas), new seating, fencing, repair and cleaning of basketball court, sun shade	415,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Equipment specifically designed for special needs students and rubberized play surface, along with installation	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,915,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Outdoor play is critical in the early childhood development of all children, including those with special needs. Most experts agree that access to outdoor play is necessary in a child's daily routine. It aids in building key social, creative, and problem-solving skills. Unstructured independent play is particularly beneficial to children who may be overwhelmed or anxious in social settings. Students can improve their gross motor skills, such as jumping, running, and swinging, and experience new sensory stimulation. Ultimately, this enhanced play area will provide these exceptional students with a safe setting to widen their experiences, develop, and learn in a creative and imaginative way.

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

The requested funding will cover the cost of a new rubberized play surface that will enhance the safety of the play area and allow those with mobility aids and wheelchairs to more easily access the equipment. It will also include one or more coverings to provide shade from the sun and reduce heat exposure. Renovated and expanded accessible pathways/sidewalks will allow students and staff to move freely throughout the play area. This may include site work and grading. Landscaping will be added to make the area visually engaging with trees for natural shade. Finally, play equipment specifically designed and engineered for this special population will be added.

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

This play area will be used directly by all students attending the Gretchen Everhart School. This includes a wide range of ages, from three (3) years old up to 22. As a Center School, Gretchen Everhart serves students from Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Gadsden, Franklin, Liberty, Taylor, and, most recently, Madison counties. Additionally, students from other areas in central and south Florida will send their students to live in group or residential facilities so they may attend Gretchen Everhart.

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

This play area will directly impact citizens in eight (8) counties who attend or whose children, friends, or family attend the Gretchen Everhart School. Additionally, students from other areas in central and south Florida will send their students to live in group or residential facilities so they may attend Gretchen Everhart. The current enrollment of Gretchen Everhart is approximately 115 students. This play area should serve students for years to come.

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

Renovation of the outdoor play area at Gretchen Everhart will enrich the lives of its students for years. This includes improvements in students' mental, physical, and emotional development. The impact will be measured through enrollment.

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?

The district would include in our contracts liquidated damages provisions for delays in delivery or completion of work.

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



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- 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)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College



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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.