



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3379

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Sports and Education Pathway to College program is a transformative initiative designed to bridge the opportunity gap for students from low-income, rural areas of Florida. These students often face significant barriers to higher education and athletic achievement due to limited access to structured sports training, academic support, and college preparation resources. The Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Foundation is committed to changing that reality by providing year-round programming that integrates high-quality sports training with comprehensive educational support to help students succeed both on and off the court. Through this initiative, over 1,200 students annually receive coaching, mentorship, and structured learning experiences that enhance their academic performance, leadership skills, and personal development. For select students who demonstrate potential and commitment, the program extends beyond sports training to include college preparation support.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	140,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	140,000

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)	140,000	85%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	25,000	15%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	165,000	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		
2023-24	0	300,000		No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

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)?

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	The Program Director will be responsible for managing the teachers and staff on-site at each location. The Program Director will ensure quality of programs through constant evaluation and oversight. This person will ensure students are progressing at the rate needed to improve one full level on state standardized testing. This person will be responsible for ensuring all deliverables are collected for DOE.	24,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Coaches and educators will be hired to implement the classroom sessions and on-court training. Coaches will be certified in their field and teachers will have state certifications. One Program Director will be hired to manage and ensure quality of the program while ensuring deliverables are achieved.	90,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Ipads and digital technology will be used in a 1:1 ratio to ensure each student can progress on their own pace, starting at their unique level of understanding.	16,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	College placement Services will be contracted out to work one on one with our high school students.	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		140,000

13. Program Performance



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

We're taking a holistic approach to helping children in school by creating a community, using sports as the hook, the engage students in subject matter studies outside of their classroom setting. All students engaged in our program will improve their reading/ela and math scores one full level (using the 1 to 5 achievement levels) in state standardized testing from one year to the next. Students will also become more excited and engaged at school, feel a sense of belonging, and become healthier physically, emotionally and socially.

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

Students will engage in on and off-court programs four times per week for 2 hours each session. The program is split down the middle so that 50% of the time students are focusing on school subject-matter learning using iPads and other forms of reading/ELA and math practice. The other 50% of the program is focused on tennis and physical wellness outside, under the covered activity area, or in a school gymnasium. We'll partner with over 14 schools to reach students in grades 1st through 12th in an intensive 16-week After-School Program.

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

Citizens will engage in free tutoring and tennis clinic services at their school's campus.

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

Our target audience is over 1,200 1st through 12th grade students from over 14 schools in Pasco County, Florida.

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

We'll measure success based on report card data, state standardized testing data and surveys from 'HelloInsight' that measure social-emotional growth.

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?

Funding would be withheld via a grant agreement with DOE for deliverables not achieved.

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.