



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3520

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Statewide initiative to give every traditional Florida high school student access to immersive 360 virtual tours of all 42 Florida colleges and universities. Using patented technology, we will create high-quality virtual campus experiences and distribute one VR headset to each of Florida's ~550 traditional public high schools. Students will be able to borrow headsets through their guidance counselors to explore every Florida college/university—solving the problem of travel costs that prevent many from seeing their options in person. Each headset will also include free educational VR content in anatomy, chemistry, math, and more, bringing modern technology into every school. Districts can choose to expand their VR offerings locally by purchasing additional headsets.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

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)	1,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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)?

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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Several staff members exclusively dedicated to distribution and shipping of equipment to ~550 high schools, working with IT personnel in all FL school districts to edit network settings (when necessary) to allow the devices, working privacy and security folks at each district, customer service for all guidance counselors and other staff at ~550 high schools.	850,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	550 VR headsets, upgraded extended battery straps, 3-year warranties, shipping, mobile device management (MDM) software, 360 degree video cameras, tripods, and related equipment for filming 42 college/university immersive videos.	650,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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

Filming 360 degree virtual tours of all 42 Florida colleges and universities. Tech support and customer service, distribution of headsets statewide.

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

Allowing for the opportunity of every high school students to take a virtual campus tour of Florida's number one ranked higher education system.

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

Any and all Florida high school students interested in attending one of Florida's colleges or universities. 500,000 plus.

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

This project will allow students to make an informed decision of what college or university they wish to attend in Florida. It is providing an opportunity for high school students who cannot afford or do not have the time to make site visits to all our higher education institutions. It puts the opportunity right in their hands to make an informed decision on what is best for their future. We will collect data and report back to the state how many campus visits are utilized per high school.

**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 return of any unspent funds to the state.

**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**

a. Name



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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.*