



2009-2010 Legislative Request

***School District Matching Grant Program:
\$1.8 Million***

Our funding was cut 55% to \$1.8 Million for 2008-09. While our hope is to have our full funding restored in the near future, our request for 2009-10 is to remain at \$1.8 Million (**Governor's Budget Specific Appropriation #90**). With the state's current budget constraints, we understand that it may not be feasible to have our funding reinstated this year to the \$4 Million recurring dollars the School District Matching Grant Program received in 2007-08. However, we ask that we not be cut further as our local initiatives will lose momentum in a critical time for Florida's future. All funds will be matched dollar-for-dollar by private-sector contributions through our local education foundations. All funding will be used for the programmatic focus areas of: low performing students; literacy; teacher recruitment and retention and technical career education.

Why Support The School District Matching Grant Program?

- In the current economic climate, businesses are making tough decisions about where their limited philanthropic dollars will have the greatest impact. At the same time, Florida's public schools are struggling with unprecedented budget cuts. The dollar-for-dollar incentive of the School District Matching Grant Program encourages private sector investment in our public schools at a time when it is needed most.
- Because the funding is administered by local education foundations, it encourages business and community leaders who serve as volunteer board members to work with school system leaders in using the funding in targeted areas to be most effective in addressing current needs.
- Having more than 1,000 local education foundation board members (*73% of whom are from the private sector*) involved with the matching grant program encourages further investment and involvement by these community leaders in advancing public education in Florida.
- The program is structured to allow both flexibility and accountability. Each year the program is funded, foundation leaders can develop a project that meets the program guidelines and targets specific, immediate needs to have a positive impact for that school year. Local education foundations must complete a grant application which is peer-reviewed and submit a grant report by June 30 detailing program results and expenditures.

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