

Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program Application
Submit to: Florida Department of Education
Office of Educational Facilities
325 West Gaines Street
1054 Turlington Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Application Deadline: Open

Date:	Contact Person:
District:	Title:
School:	Address:
Address:	City:
City:	Zip:
Zip:	Phone/Fax:
By what date can the district incur QZAB debt?	E-mail:

I. Eligibility Criteria

1. The district must be qualified by virtue of location or composition of student body (on a school-by-school basis). Select one of the following:

Location

The school is located in a Federal Empowerment Zone or in a Federal Enterprise Community.

Composition of Student Body

There is a reasonable expectation, as of the date of issuance of the bonds, that at least 35 percent of the students attending the school participating in the program will be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches established under the National School Lunch Act.

2. The eligible school district must possess written commitments from private entity match partners to make qualified match contributions having a present value, as of the date of the issuance, of not less than 10 percent of the proceeds of the bond issue, including such items as:*

- a. Equipment for use in the qualified zone academy (including state-of-the-art technology and vocational equipment; school buses are not allowed).
- b. Technical assistance in developing curriculum or training teachers to promote market-driven technology in the classrooms.
- c. Internships, field trips, or other educational opportunities outside the academy for students.
- d. Any other property (including cash) or service specified by the local education agency that meets IRS requirements.

* *The value of the 10 percent match must be below the fair market value offered by any entity providing similar products or services.*

3. **The 10 percent match partner must help to set up an academic program (academy) to “prepare students for college or workforce,” as required by the QZAB legislation.**
 - The academy program should specify how many students will be trained in which academic areas using what resources, when the program will be implemented, who will direct the implementation and evaluation, and how the evaluation (pre- and post-tests) will be accomplished.
4. **The academy program must be established by and operated under the supervision of an eligible local education agency, as defined in Section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, to provide education or training below the post-secondary level.**
 - a. Such academy is designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the demands of college and the increasingly complex workforce.
 - b. Students in the academy are subject to the same academic standards and assessments as other students educated by the school district.
 - c. The comprehensive education plan of the academy program is approved by the school district.
5. **Eligible QZAB projects must include one or more of the following:**
 - a. Rehabilitating or repairing the public school facility in which the academy is established.
 - b. Providing equipment for use at such academy.
 - c. Providing instructional materials.
 - d. Providing professional development for teachers.
6. **Requests must contain a minimum of \$1 million in projects per district. Please do not request more bonding authority than you can reasonably expect to repay or qualify for through a financial institution.**

II. Certificate of Eligibility

The School Board certifies through a board resolution dated _____, that the school district has satisfied Criterion 1a or 1b, and Criteria 2 through 5. Please check appropriate boxes and attach a copy of the resolution.

III. Required Documentation

The Application must include the following:

- A copy of the resolution referenced in the Certificate of Eligibility section.
- Written verifications from private entity match partners must be attached to the application.
 - Note: Providers of services or materials for the proposed project are not eligible as contributors to meet the 10 percent match contribution requirement.
- An affidavit signed by the school superintendent and the 10 percent match partners stating that the value of the 10 percent match is at or below the fair market value offered by any entity providing similar products or services.
- An overview of the proposed academic program/academy details including, but not limited to: program description, the number of students benefiting, resources used, when and how the program will be implemented, who will direct the implementation and evaluation, and how the evaluation (pre- and post-tests) will be accomplished.
- A written spending plan including commitments to spend 10 percent of funds within six months and 95 percent within five years of the issue of QZAB bonds.
- Applications must clearly explain the means by which the district intends to repay the bond principal upon maturity.

Amount of Bond Authorization Requested: \$	
District Financing Source:	
I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and correct and is in compliance with statutes and administrative provisions of the Florida Department of Education. The school board has authorized me to sign this application on its behalf.	
Signature of Superintendent/Date:	
_____	_____
Superintendent	Date