

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of eligibility for potential ideas of projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: [Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy](#)

Proposal Title: [Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy](#)

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: [\\$7M](#)

Total Estimated Project Cost: [\\$14M](#)

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: [Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy is a new college preparatory school in Bay County, Florida, opening in August 2024. Our goal is to prepare students to be future leaders through rigorous instruction in aeronautics, robotics, engineering, computer design, and dual-enrolled courses. We are located near St. Andrew Bay, which gives students opportunities for various water activities, including marine water testing with St. Andrew’s BayWatch, lifeguard certification, sailing, and SCUBA diving.](#)

Contact Information

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Names of co-applicants, partners, or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: (See included chart below)

Partners/Organizations with a Potential Role in the Program		Proposed Role
Aeronautical College	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Students will be able to dual enroll through Embry-Riddle in business courses as well as in Aerospace courses.
Community members	Local Community Members	We have partnered with local community members to grant Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy access to waterfront property. This facilitates Outdoor Education and Water Safety classes, encompassing lifeguard certification, sailing, and SCUBA classes.
Local Yacht Club	St Andrew's Bay Yacht Club	If the potential partnership with St. Andrew's Bay Yacht Club comes to fruition, the Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy will have access to water within walking distance. This partnership would enable our students to obtain lifeguarding and first aid certifications.
Military Installations	Tyndall Air Force Base, United States Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC)	We have established relationships with Tyndall Air Force Base and the United States Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC) located in Bay County to serve as mentors for students in our robotics and engineering programs.
State Colleges	State Colleges in the region	The Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy curriculum will incorporate dual enrollment coursework, which students will complete at Gulf Coast State College or other state colleges/universities in the region.
Local Community Organizations	ASCENT St Andrew's Bay Watch	The Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy has partnered with ASCENT to grant our students access to the robotics community. We have partnered with St. Andrew's Bay Watch to conduct monthly local water testing and participate in the Grasses in Classes program. These opportunities will enhance our students' scientific knowledge and hands-on experiences.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a maximum of two (2) pages, please describe the proposed project or program and anticipated outcomes including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

1. (i) **Amount of Funds:** Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy respectfully requests a catalyst investment of \$7 Million from Triumph Gulf Coast Inc.
2. (ii) **Other Sources of Funding:** The requested \$7 Million will be matched through a state Step-Up Grant for the first year and FTE funding for schools for each subsequent year over six years—other state, federal, and private grants and private donations.
3. (iii) **Location:** The project will initially be located at 100 N MacArthur Drive, Panama City, Florida, 32401.
4. (iv) **Summary of the program:** See below.
5. (v) **Timeline:** We seek funding over six years to ensure the school's sustainability and provide essential resources, including furnishings, computers, lab equipment, and robotics technology. With the Department of Education's issuance of our school number, we are set to commence renovations, acquire necessary equipment, and recruit additional key personnel for the upcoming school year. The school is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024, and we aim to steadily increase student and faculty numbers until all high school grade levels are represented.

Saint Andrews Bay STEM Academy is seeking funding to support the establishment of our new school. The planned facility will cater to students in grades 9-12, with an anticipated enrolment of 50 students per grade, beginning in Fall 2024. The funding will be utilized to refurbish existing classroom areas on campus, procure necessary furniture and equipment for academic instruction, and recruit additional school personnel. We aim to provide our students with the best educational opportunities by offering a combination of college preparatory classes, dual enrollment programs, and courses in engineering, unmanned systems, business entrepreneurship, construction, and digital design. Our goal is to foster a collaborative culture that provides a supportive environment and defined curriculum pathways, allowing students to earn dual enrollment credits while pursuing a degree and engaging in multiple Career Technical Education Pathways.

1. Foster experiential learning by partnering with field experts, offering coursework and research projects in high-wage/high-demand sectors.
2. Cultivate self-directed learners who proactively shape their educational and career trajectories.
3. Equip students with sought-after analytical, soft, and technical skills for seamless entry into their desired professions or higher education.
4. Provide advanced coursework in engineering, computer science, robotics, construction, digital design, unmanned systems, aeronautics, and business entrepreneurship, enabling students to attain industry certifications matching local job market needs or enter a competitive college degree program.
5. Empower educators to facilitate immersive learning experiences that pave the way for successful employment and higher education prospects.

What is the Planned Curriculum Model?

The institution is dedicated to establishing a robust college-preparatory environment for high school students, focusing on college-preparatory coursework, career exploration, parental involvement, and comprehensive preparation for post-secondary education and the workforce.

In the initial phase, grades 9 and 10 students will engage in a traditional high school curriculum complemented by career-themed courses leading to industry certifications as electives. Additionally, the institution will introduce career academies within the campus, providing sequential courses in engineering, computer science, construction, robotics, unmanned systems, business entrepreneurship, and digital design. This will empower students to explore high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career opportunities early in their high school journey, with the flexibility to continue their studies at prestigious institutions post-graduation.

Furthermore, students in grades 11 and 12 can dual enroll at esteemed educational establishments to earn high school and college credits simultaneously, accelerating their academic progression and reducing tuition expenses. The goal is to ensure that all students are well-equipped for dual enrollment in core subject areas by 11th grade, with the chance to obtain valuable industry certifications.

In addition to dual enrollment, students can participate in Advanced Placement courses offered by the College Board. Honor courses covering all core curricular areas will be readily accessible for those interested in entering the workforce or pursuing a military career post-high school.

How Would this STEM Academy Benefit Our Region?

Our mission is clear: we aim to provide a unique and impactful educational experience in the revitalizing Cove area of Panama City. By establishing a high school in this neighborhood, our goal is to bring new vitality to the community and develop highly skilled employees for the Panama City workforce. We are dedicated to delivering an education that prioritizes academic excellence and prepares students to be valuable members of society. We focus on equipping them with business and leadership skills and certifications in cutting-edge areas such as digital design, unmanned systems, robotics, construction, and engineering.

Strategically located just off St. Andrew Bay, our school is ideally situated between two military installations that highly value knowledge in robotics and unmanned systems. Moreover, with Tyndall Air Force Base undergoing reconstruction and set to become a state-of-the-art base, we anticipate an influx of students into the county due to the relocation of two new squadrons and their families. This could potentially lead to overcrowding in the district, which our school aims to help alleviate.

In addition to rigorous college preparatory and STEM-based courses, our students will be equipped for successful and lucrative careers in our region post-graduation. We will provide unique educational opportunities through partnerships with local community members, including outdoor water activities such as SCUBA diving, sailing, and lifeguard certification.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be reviewed and then considered for award at the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Please Select the Proposal's Eligibility Category(s)

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. *See*, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):
 - Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
 - Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
 - Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
 - Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;
 - Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
 - Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

Please Select the Priorities this Proposal's Outcomes will Achieve

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):

- Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
- Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
- Provide outcome measures.
- Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.

