

## **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: **Gulf District Schools**

Proposal Title: **Intermediate and Middle Grades Cape Digital Technology**

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested:  
\$2,000,000.00

Total Estimated Project Cost: 1.5-2 mil over  
5 years

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Gulf District Schools is home to four public schools: two Pre-K through 6 elementary schools and two 7-12 high schools. There are approximately 1,900 students in the district. Over 60% are considered economically disadvantaged.

#### Contact Information

Primary Contact: Renee Lynn  
Title: Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
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Website: <https://www.gulfcoschools.com/>

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program:

### **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. 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. 1

**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 longterm 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 wthe disproportionately affected counties.

## **REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Proposed project and anticipated outcomes:

- (i) Amount sought: \$1,500,000,.00
- (ii) Other sources of funds: not applicable
- (iii) Locations: Gulf District Schools  
Port St. Joe High School (PSJHS) and Port St. Joe Elementary School (PSJES)  
Wewahitchka High School (WHS) and Wewahitchka Elementary School (WES)
- (iv) Summary description of proposed program

Personal computer emerged in the 1970's as cutting edge and transformational. No one truly understood at the time the impact they would have on the business world, education, military, and society in general. However, they have become an integral part of daily life as we know it. The tech field is an industry that consists of lucrative salaries and continues to be a major force in the larger culture of conversation involving the job force and future career paths.

According to My Career Tools.com, the State of Florida is in high demand for employees in the rapidly developing world of computers, high tech, and game design. Information Technology Specialists are in need for the business industry. An Information Technology (IT) specialist is usually a generalist devoted to every aspect of the computer system, from installation, computer set-up, troubleshooting, upgrades, maintenance, to service.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), Florida's economy is forecast to grow more than double the national average through 2030, which should bring more jobs. This forecast is becoming more evident in Gulf County as expansion is on the rise.

Acquisition of this grant would allow Gulf District Schools to immediately implement a digital technology certification program and, by the end of the third year, have a fully implemented, viable program working toward complete sustainability.

Funding would be used to pay salaries of teachers in four different schools to gain certification in digital technology areas appropriate to the intermediate and middle grades curriculum, purchase hardware and software for certification requirements, a curriculum, licenses, certification exams, and other materials/supplies necessary for full implementation of digital technology programs.

Gulf District Schools plans to return to Triumph within the next 18-24 months with a proposal that would permit the expansion of this project to include more elementary grade levels and after school programs to prepare students for employment in the projected high demand career fields of informational and digital technology. The district goal is to have 80% of students in grades 5-9 earn at least 1 certificate by the year 2027.

(v) Timeline

**July – November 2024:**

- Introduce basic word processing programs at the elementary level to build background knowledge and master the primary skills required for participation in the program in the future
- Key teachers begin working on the required certification
- Purchase computers and software for initial implementation
- Hire teachers at each site to coordinate implementation and possible expansion of the program into multiple grade levels
- Purchase any necessary equipment, supplies, and materials

**January 2025:**

- Introduce Digital Technology to elementary curriculum in the computer lab special area rotation program at WES & STEAM Lab at PSJES and during intervention times for students not needing targeted interventions.

**June 2025:**

- Train teachers to conduct summer certification camps (see July 2025)

**July 2025:**

- Conduct four-day summer technology day camps for elementary, middle and high schools students which are facilitated by trained school faculty assisted by high school students who have achieved the first level of certification. This will generate interest among student body and faculty, create positive public relations and press, and encourage the partnership of area businesses.

**August 2025:**

- Full scale implementation of curriculum at all schools for grades 5-9.

*\*All dates subject to change upon grant approval and collaboration with other districts and vendors currently providing similar programs.*