

Wilmington

Delaware



Department of Education

Opportunity Funding

For more information contact:
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Secretary of Education
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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2022

Opportunity Funding
Directed Funds for English Learners and Low-Income Students
Application deadline: June 30, 2021

Delaware Department of Education
Opportunity Funding Form
2021-2022 School Year

Purpose: The three-year Opportunity Funding initiative led to legislation that now guarantees weighted funding through FY25.

Allocation Method: Local education agencies (LEAs) will receive \$600 per English learner (EL) and \$524.25 per low-income (LI) student. Funding shall be made available to LEAs upon the passage of the FY22 budget so that in early July LEAs may begin to hire staff, procure instructional materials, execute contracts for services, and plan for the upcoming school year. LEAs may use this funding for 100 percent of staff costs, including, but not limited to, reading specialists, math specialists, school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and other personnel dedicated to initiatives such as trauma-informed practices.

Accountability: LEAs will be held accountable to ensure funds are used to improve outcomes for low income and EL students. Districts and charters will work with Secretary Bunting to set goals at the beginning of the school year, participate in a mid-year progress review, and then evaluate summative performance data during their end of school year conference. Community accountability will be provided in a summit to highlight best practices, in an annual report, and in spotlights showing program successes and challenges across the state.

Metrics: Districts and charters will set goals to reduce the gap between EL students', low-income students', and the overall student population's baseline performance rates and 100 percent by half, thus reducing students' non-proficiency by 50 percent.

In addition to the accountability measure data, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) will provide support by offering

- Toolkits on evidence-based best practices for improving outcomes for EL and low-income students.
- Guidance for selecting high quality instructional materials.
- Technical support enabling LEAs to take a comprehensive look at their funding streams in order to maximize and coordinate them.
- Professional learning provided by content experts.
- Sharing best practices in a variety of ways including regular meetings with curriculum directors, chiefs/principals, social media and presentations.

DDOE will use a third party to also evaluate

- The effectiveness of funds in improving outcomes for EL and low-income students.
- The successes and challenges/shortcomings of the program, including recommendations for future enhancements.

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School Information

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Milford School District		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 906 Lakeview Avenue	CITY: Milford	ZIP CODE: 19963

Contact Information

CONTACT NAME: Sara Croce	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-422-1609
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: scroce@msd.k12.de.us	

Overall Summary

Provide an overall summary of how the Opportunity Funding will be used to improve outcomes for English learners and low-income students in your district or charter school.

Include an explanation of how the work will impact each target population as well as the rationale for selecting the plan.

The Milford School District continues to experience a significant growth in the population of English Learner (EL) and Low Income (LI) students. Using the Opportunity Funding, the district will continue to provide additional EL staff members to reduce the student caseloads at Lulu Ross Elementary, Milford Central Academy and Milford High School. This year the district will hire a Student Learning Specialist focused on the needs and curriculum development for English Learner Students across the district.

The district has also employed a team of Student and Family Interventionists that will expand to best support the needs of our neediest students and families with a concentration on English Learners and Low Income students. For Fiscal Year 2022, we intend to add an additional Student and Family Interventionist position to support our secondary students at Milford High School, especially those students that are struggling to return to a regular school environment after the pandemic.

We feel that reading intervention is a key component to assisting struggling EL and LI students. We were fortunate this year to meet the threshold to qualify for a Reading Interventionist state position at each elementary school; however, based on the position incumbents, we plan to support any excess personnel costs of a Reading Interventionist at each elementary school with the opportunity funds providing a focus on increasing reading proficiency and enhancing academic vocabulary. We feel strongly that the personnel identified in this plan will raise the academic achievement of both EL and LI students.

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As the district population of EL and LI students has expanded, we continue to see the increased need for counselors in our schools to support the unique needs of these students. The Opportunity Funds will be used to assist the district with ensuring each Elementary School has two School Counselors on Staff using a combination of Division I Units and Opportunity Funding.

The district has identified a need for providing additional instructional opportunities after school and during the summer months focusing on English Learners and low income students. After-school programs allow for a blend of both academic and social skill building. Summer programming supports year-round student involvement to ensure students are maintaining or increasing proficiency before advancing to the next grade level.

Using a combination of the new federal funding through ESSERF and the State allocated Opportunity funds, the district will continue to provide and enhance after school and summer program offerings to address learning loss from the pandemic and increase achievement for EL and LI students specifically.

Test score data has shown that there is an achievement gap between the all student group and EL or LI students across our district. Using the opportunity grant funds, in combination with our federal funds, we plan to offer additional staff and increase instructional opportunities for students to increase achievement in novel ways.

The district will increase the focus on early childhood support by employing a PreK/Early Childhood Coordinator to identify students including, LI and EL students that need to be evaluated and supported to prepare for K Readiness.

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Investment and Goals

Provide additional detail about the plan in the chart below by listing each Opportunity Funding investment with its associated cost and proposed impact. *For each investment, include baseline data and numeric targets to measure impact. A state budget sheet will be completed by the district after the plan has been approved.*

Investment	Cost	Expected impact (Check all that apply)					Is this a continued Opp. Funding investment from 2020-21?
(Please list your priority. Examples:	For 2021-22 (\$)	Raise EL student achieve- ment	Raise LI student achieve- ment	Increase attendance for EL students	Increase attendance of LI students	Other, specify	

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-“Hire full time 1 social worker” -“Purchase RULER for grades 7-9”)						(yes/no)	
Continue to support three (3) ESL Certified Teachers	\$269,651.00	X		X			Yes
Support the excess costs of Reading Interventionist positions at 4 Elementary Schools	\$133,311.00	X	X				Yes
Continue to support three (3) Student and Family Interventionists	\$304,000.00	X		X	X	X	Parent Engagement Yes
Provide Additional School Counselors at 2 Elementary Schools	205,500.00	X		X	X	X	Parent Engagement No
Create Academic Learning Centers at three (3) locations	\$182,463.00	X	X	X		X	Yes
Summer Camp for identified LI and EL students	\$9,300.00	X	X	X		X	Yes
Student Learning Specialist – English Learners	\$107,500.00	X		X			Parent Engagement Yes

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PreK/Early Childhood Coordinator to support increased Kindergarten Readiness	107,500.00	X	X	X	X	Parent/Community Engagement Early Intervention Services PK/LI/EL	Yes
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