

Delaware



Department of Education

Opportunity Funding

For more information contact: Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2022

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

Opportunity Funding
Directed Funds for English Learners and Low-Income Students

Application deadline: June 30, 2021

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.

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

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School Information

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: POLYTECH School District		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 823 Walnut Shade Road, P.O. Box 22	CITY: Woodside	ZIP CODE: 19980

Contact Information

CONTACT NAME: Nicholas Johnson	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-697-2170
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: Nicholas.Johnson@Polytech.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.

POLYTECH School District will support a Student Support Specialist (teacher position). This position will provide visiting teacher services to our low-income students. Visiting teacher services for low-income students may include, but are not limited to: coordinating supports for homeless and foster care students, coordinating English Language Learner (ELL) services, coordinating homebound education services, and providing consultative services to promote student success in CTE and World Language classrooms.

The Student Support Specialist will provide a variety of low-income student supports including, but not limited to: connecting students and families to mental health and wellness supports, conducting academic progress and attendance checks and counseling, arranging transportation services if necessary, and assisting transitions to post-secondary life (FASFA and college application

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

completion, employment searches, et cetera). This staff member will also connect families to state and community supports and resources as needed.

POLYTECH School District will also support a portion of a teacher to provide English Language Learner (ELL) instruction and supports to students. (In the past, POLYTECH has contracted these services with an outside vendor.)

The ELL teacher will provide a variety of supports including, but not limited to providing ELL instructional services during the daily enrichment period and coaching/consultative services for teachers who serve ELLs or for anyone looking to expand their knowledge of best practices related to providing instruction to ELLs.

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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? (yes/no)
(Please list your priority. Examples: -“Hire full time 1 social worker” - “Purchase RULER for grades 7-9”)	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	

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

<i>EXAMPLE: Purchase Second Step curriculum for use with grades K-4 students</i>	\$42,000	X	X			Increase ELL & LI student self-awareness skills	yes
Student Support Specialist	\$91,500	X	X	X	X	Connect students to mental health and wellness supports, and assist transition to post-secondary life. Also connect students and their families to community supports and resources needed.	Yes
ELL instructor (partially funded unit)	\$25,711	X	X	X	X		No