

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.

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School Information

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Delaware Military Academy		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 112 Middleboro Road	CITY: Wilmington	ZIP CODE: 19804

Contact Information

CONTACT NAME: Anthony Pullella	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-998-0745
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: Anthony.pullella@dma.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.

DMA will employ a part-time Student Support Specialist focus and support our low-income students. The anticipated cost will be \$25,601. We will use our opportunity grant allocation of \$ 18,128 to partially fund this position. The remainder of funds will come from the local budget. We anticipate a current staff member will fill this position.

Student Support Specialist (part-time)

The Student Support Specialist will provide support and mentorship to our DMA cadets, with a special focus on our 12% of cadets that are classified as low income. Our goal is to foster a positive environment that increases the learning potential for our cadets through relationship building based on trust and understanding. The Student Support Specialist will meet with low-income cadets on

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a regular basis to develop individualized education and study plans and to coach each cadet towards academic success. The Student Support Specialist will work with educators and administration to provide guidance in the selection of quality instructional materials and ways to best implement best practices to improve academic outcomes for identified low-income cadets.

Expectations:

- Meet regularly with administrators and key staff members to communicate cadet needs and progress, specifically for the low-income subgroup
- Identify skill deficits for low-income cadets and provide supports to ensure each cadet can be successful in their academic classes
- Coordinate tutoring, study skills and peer mentoring opportunities for low-income cadets to support classroom instruction
- Maintain confidentiality of cadet records, data and personal information
- Provide individualized education support and coaching
- Commit to the belief that every cadet, regardless of economic status, deserves a challenging and positive educational experience so they can be prepared for college and life

Responsibilities:

- Provide tutoring, as needed, to individual cadets within the low-income subgroup who cannot afford an outside tutor due to financial need.
- Coordinate and oversee peer mentoring as well as tutoring services for low-income cadets
- Work collaboratively with staff, administration and classroom teachers to ensure that cadet skill deficits, as identified in this low-income subgroup, are not interfering with the cadet's educational achievement.
- Monitor academic progress for low-income cadets and make recommendations for ongoing or additional services and needs, as appropriate.
- Act as a liaison between parents, cadets and teachers and advocate for our low-income cadets to ensure financial status is not a barrier to academic success.

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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	
Employ 1 Part-time Student Support Services Specialist	25,601		X				No