

Delaware



Department of Education

Opportunity Funding

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

Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2022

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.

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- 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.

Application deadline: June 30, 2021

School Information

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| DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Kuumba Academy Charter School | | |
| DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 1200 N French Street | CITY: Wilmington | ZIP CODE: 19801 |

Contact Information

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| CONTACT NAME: Sally Maldonado | CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: |
| CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: smaldonado@kacsde.org | |

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.

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The funds provided through this FY21 opportunity grant will be used to support the Dean of Students. Funding from the FY21 Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services will also be used to fund Contracted Reading support through Reading Assist. These are a continuation of Opportunity Grant activities from the 19/20 school year.

The Target Population for this project is all low income Kuumba students, and their families, who support them. Kuumba Academy serves 660 students, in grades K-8. Kuumba's students, specifically low-income students, all of whom are "at-risk", face incredible challenges on a regular basis, and require additional supports beyond the academic program to help them overcome the barriers that may impede their ability to reach their highest potential. The vast majority of Kuumba's population faces exposure to trauma on a daily basis. Currently 66% of our students come from low-income families.

The goal of this project is to provide trauma informed supports and integrated academic student services for all of our low income students, in order to achieve higher academic and behavioral outcomes. Sadly, as is the nature of our demographic, almost all of our students experience trauma in some form, which has an impact on their emotional well being, the way they behave and interact with people in the school, and their academics.

Kuumba has a significant need for academic, behavioral, and social/emotional supports. Additionally, there is a great need for an increase in family involvement, which will help provide a key element of support for our students, and will result in an improvement in school culture and academic outcomes.

These funds will enable the following to take place this school year:

- To provide multiple social/emotional supports for all low income Kuumba students, K-8.
- To improve academic outcomes for all low income Kuumba students, K-8.
- To sustain the first two goals of rigorous academic and social/emotional outcomes through an increase in family engagement and an improved school culture.

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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 stude nt achie ve- ment | Raise LI student achieve- ment | Increase attendance for EL students | Increase attendance of LI students | Other, specify | |
| <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 |
| FT Dean to engage families in the process and ensure all low income students are receiving support for SEL and academics | \$117,829.49 incl OECs | X | X | X | X | | yes |

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|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 100%FT lead counselor to support families in the process and ensure all low income students are receiving support for SEL as needed | \$ 99,816.50 incl OECs | X | X | X | X | yes |
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