

Delaware



*Department of
Education*

Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services

For more information and to submit applications:

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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2021

**Delaware Department of Education
Opportunity Funding Form
2020-2021 School Year**

Opportunity Funding
*Directed funds for mental health services for students identified as
low-income or English Learners*

Application deadline: Friday, July 31, 2020

Purpose: The Opportunity Funding directed to mental health services provides \$5.0 million in FY20, \$2.5 million in HB 225 (Annual Appropriations Act) and \$2.5 million authorized in HB 226 (One-Time Supplemental). With a total supplemental amount of \$7.5 million over three years, the total amount will be \$15 million *contingent on future appropriations*. The Opportunity Fund is to provide additional funding for English Learner (EL) and low-income students.

For FY21, \$2.5 million is appropriated through HB 240 (Annual Appropriations Act). The guiding language regarding these funds and eligibility was amended through HB260 (Grants- In-Aid Act). The \$2.5 million allocated is supplemented with the \$2.5 million from HB 226 as referenced above. A total of \$5 million is appropriated for FY21.

These funds continue to be apportioned to schools which qualify for a Reading Interventionist under the Student Success Block Grant.

This funding shall be used by school districts and charter schools for *mental health services* in the form of school counselors, school social workers or licensed clinical social workers, school psychologists, and/or for additional reading supports for grades K-5. Services may include the employment of staff, where such funding may be used to cover 100 percent of personnel costs on a 10 to 12-month basis and/or contracted services.

Allocation Method: Amounts vary per school and that amount is indicated below. Each LEA has already received the first half of the funding; the second amount will be released upon receipt and approval of this application.

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
ADDRESS: 4403 Lancaster Pike, Bldg. 26; Wilmington, DE 19805
CONTACT NAME: Deborah Rodenhouser
CONTACT PHONE: 302-547-0162
CONTACT EMAIL: deborah.rodenhouser@academia.k12.de.us
ALLOCATION AMOUNT: \$196,578

Questions:

1. What mental health needs of your identified low-income and English learner students will you be addressing through these mental health services funds?
(Please indicate N/A if these funds are solely being used for reading supports for the two subgroups – EL and low-income.)

The majority student population at Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School (AAACS) is Low Income (48%) and English Learner (58%). Our English Learner (EL) student population comes to us with trauma-related issues such as separation from nuclear and extended family, trauma related to family of origin issues and immigration, linguistic barriers, and intense and lifelong financial barriers, just to name a few. Our low income (LI) student population comes from homes that are exposed to violence, death, loss, substance abuse and psycho-social and emotional trauma at very early ages. Hence for both sub-groups, there is an urgent need to provide targeted mental health supports to EL and LI students in need.

To that end, the Supplemental Funds for AAACS will be used to hire 2.0 FTE Social/Emotional Specialists to serve LI and EL students to serve as 'first responders' for students needing assistance with de-escalating behavioral incidents and reducing aggression and other disruptive behaviors interfering with learning in the classroom.

While the majority of students at Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School (AAACS) are Low Income (48%) and English Learners (58%), students who do not fall into those two sub-groups will also receive the early intervention skills and services of the 'first responders.' These Social Emotional Specialists will work with any child in need of mental health supports (anxiety, depression, stress) to re-engage students in learning and positive behaviors.

2. What kind of mental health services personnel are you hiring or contracting (school counselor, school social worker, licensed clinical social worker or school psychologist)?

La Academia continues to grow into a more diverse population of students from varied backgrounds, social upbringings, and a wide range of economic circumstances. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is an approach to education that focuses on creating a safe and positive learning environment. SEL has been proven to improve academic achievement by improving social attributes such as sharing and empathy, while combating mental health issues like depression, stress, and anxiety. With the continuation of two Social Emotional Specialists (SES), AAACS will be better able to engage students in learning and positive behavior. The role of the SES will be to engage students in social emotional learning, both inside and outside the classroom (recess, cafeteria, hallways etc). The SES will take an approach of developing five key skills in our students: 1) Self-Awareness – understanding their emotions and school values; 2) Self-Management – delaying gratification, impulse control, managing own reactions and keeping a positive mindset; 3) Social Awareness – understanding social norms, empathy and compassion; 4) Relationship skills – active listening, communication skills, cooperation, conflict; and 5) Responsible decision making – as it relates to behavior and academic goals; evaluation of actions and consequences.

These behaviors are not intuitive; they need to be learned and taught, and have a direct correlation with mental health and academic success. Why? School can be a stressful time for any student, at any age. Changes in personality and perspective, as well as a shift in our own social positioning can manifest in many negative ways. Mental health issues like depression, anxiety, stress, and social withdrawal are present in our students, especially in our older ones. By engaging our students in social and emotional learning early on, our hope is to show fewer occurrences of these problems as they get older. Given how mental health greatly affects students' self-esteem, we are confident the professionals in these SES roles can strengthen their social/emotional skills in ways that will impact academic achievement.

3. Are you using these funds for reading supports for your identified low-income and English learner students in addition to mental health services or in lieu of mental health services? If so, what types of supports/services will be provided?

Yes, money will be used for reading supports in addition to mental health services in the following ways:

a) The Reading Assist Institute (RAI) will engage AmeriCorps members to be trained as Reading Assist Intervention Corps (RAI Corps) using Reading Assist's own accredited, structured language and reading intervention program. This highly effective program is grounded in the Orton-Gillingham principles of explicit, systematic, multi-sensory instruction. The RAI Corps members will provide intensive reading intervention to students in grades 1, 2 and 3, who have been identified by the school-based team as Tier 3 students reading at or below the 25th percentile. RAI will work closely with AAACS's Reading Specialist who will help outline conditions for success and define success measures that will demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the intervention program. Please note - due to the decreased allocation for this funding stream, only one (1) RAI staff will be funded through the FY21 Supplemental Mental Health/Reading Funds; 3 additional RAI members are to be funded through the General FY21 Opportunity Funds.

b) In addition to Reading Assist, Supplemental Funds will be used to hire 1.0 FTE para-educator, and an additional part-time (.35 FTE) para-educator, to work with students across grades, as needed, to provide additional targeted support in literacy and RTI intervention.

4. How will you know if these services or supports are effective?

The effectiveness of these mental health and reading supports will be measured by:

- a) Social/emotional skill-building, as evidenced by the achievement of early intervention supports
- b) Increased students' time-on task with instructional engagement, as evidenced by classroom teacher observation and/or participation in digital learning platforms
- c) Improved academic performance, as evidenced with MAP and Smarter Balanced assessments

It must be noted, however, that progress in these areas will likely take multiple years of concentrated focus to gain measurable impact. Issues that impact learning for EL and LI students are not easily overcome.

5. Is this money being used to contract services?

YES NO

6. Please complete the State Funds Budget Form and State Budget Summary Form (attached).

Assurances and signatures:

As the chief school officer of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I am also authorized to obligate the district or charter school to conduct any activity approved under this form in accordance with all applicable state requirements, including statutory and regulatory requirements, and program specific requirements. The information contained in it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

Chief School Officer (printed name): Mercedes Alonso, Executive Director

Signature:  Date: 7/20/2020

As the business manager of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I have read this form and reviewed the financial information contained in this form. The information contained in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have reviewed and approve the submission of the budgetary information for this form. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

Business manager (printed name): Michelle Hastie, Business Manager

Signature:  Date: 7/20/2020

By signing this form, I am approving the plan submitted by the district or charter.

Secretary of Education/Designee (printed name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Grant - Mental Health/Reading

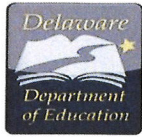
Project Start Date: 8/1/2020

Project Title: _____

LEA/Agency: Acadmia Antonia Alonso

Project End Date: 9/30/2021

Expense Types and Account Codes: Salaries (5100) and Other Employee Costs (5120)						
Employee Name	Title	FTE Percentage		State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
PROFESSIONAL:				\$	\$	\$
C. Acuria	Social-Emotional Specialist	100%		\$35,425.00		\$35,425.00
A. Jones	Social-Emotional Specialist	100%		\$46,835.00		\$46,835.00
Professional Subtotal				\$82,260.00		\$82,260.00
SUBSTITUTES:				\$	\$	\$
Substitutes Subtotal						
SUPPORT STAFF:				\$	\$	\$
K. Caldero	Paraprofessional	100%		\$28,653.00		\$28,653.00
R. Brito	P/T Paraprofessional	35%		\$10,875.90		\$10,875.90
Support Staff Subtotal				\$39,528.90		\$39,528.90
STUDENTS:				\$	\$	\$
Students Subtotal						
SALARY TOTAL:				\$121,788.90		\$121,788.90
OTHER EMPLOYEE COSTS:				\$	\$	\$
FICA		6.20%		\$7,550.91		\$7,550.91
Medicare		1.45%		\$1,765.94		\$1,765.94
Pension		22.95%		\$27,950.55		\$27,950.55
Workman's Comp		1.55%		\$1,887.73		\$1,887.73
Unemployment Insurance		0.11%		\$133.97		\$133.97
		32.26%				
Health Insurance/Other Non-taxed Benefits				\$21,000.00		\$21,000.00
Health Insurance/Other Non-taxed Benefits		15.013.00				
OEC TOTAL:				\$60,289.10		\$60,289.10
SALARY AND OEC TOTAL:				\$182,078.00		\$182,078.00



State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Grant - Mental Health/Reading

Project Start Date: 8/1/2020

Project Title: _____

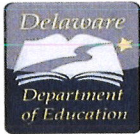
LEA/Agency: Acadmia Antonia Alonso

Project End Date: 9/30/2021

Expense Types and Account Codes: Travel (5400)					
Destination	Purpose	# of Travelers	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS					

Expense Types and Account Codes: Contractual Services (5500)				
Vendor Name	Service Provided	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
Reading Assist	Intensive Reading Intervention for Tier 3 students in Grades 1 thru 3	\$ \$12,000.00	\$	\$ \$12,000.00
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES COSTS		\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00

Expense Types and Account Codes: Supplies and Materials (5600)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
Supplies for Mental Health Counselor			\$ \$2,500.00	\$	\$ \$2,500.00
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS			\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00



State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Grant - Mental Health/Reading

Project Start Date: 8/1/2020

Project Title: _____

LEA/Agency: Acacdmia Antonia Alonso

Project End Date: 9/30/2021

Expense Types and Account Codes: Capital Outlay (5700)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
<u>Replacement Equipment</u>			\$	\$	\$
<u>New Equipment</u>					
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS					

GRAND TOTAL	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
	\$196,578.00		\$196,578.00



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY OF STATE FUNDS

LEA/Agency Name: Academia Antonia Alonso

State Subgrant Title: Opportunity Grant - Mental Health/Reading

Project Title: _____

<i>Account Code</i>	<i>5100</i>	<i>5120</i>	<i>5400</i>	<i>5500</i>	<i>5600</i>	<i>5700</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Account Code Name</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>OEC's</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Contracted Services</i>	<i>Supplies & Materials</i>	<i>Capital Outlay</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<i>Total Budget</i>	\$121,788.90	\$60,289.10		\$12,000.00	\$2,500.00		\$196,578.00

Completed By: Mickelle Hastie

Date: 7/20/20

Chief Financial Officer or Business Manager: Mickelle Hastie

Date: 7/20/20