



## **Opportunity Funding Combined application for Flexible funding and Mental Health and/or Reading funding**

For more information contact: Maria Rodriguez

Maria.rodriquez@doe.k12.de.us

Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2023

**Opportunity Funding**

*Directed Funds for students identified as English Learners and students from low-income households*

**Delaware Department of Education  
Opportunity Funding Form  
2022-2023 School Year**

Application deadline: July 29, 2022

**Purpose:** Senate Bill 56 of the 151st General Assembly codified the Opportunity Fund, an additional source of education funding for Delaware public schools intended to support the increased needs of low income and English learner students, and established the parameters for how the funding is to be distributed and the usages reported. Epilogue language in the annual appropriations Act provides further parameters regarding usage and allocation.

**For FY23, this is a combined school-based application for both the Flexible funding and Mental Health and/or Reading funding (if applicable) allocations.**

**Appropriation Allocation Method:**

**Flexible Funding** - \$30 Million to be allocated. LEAs will receive school-based allocations at \$616.35 per English learner (EL) and \$616.35 per low-income (LI) student. LEAs shall have flexibility in the use of these funds to enhance services to EL and LI students, including using these funds to cover 100% of personnel costs for associated staff, contractual services, supplies and materials, or other expenditures deemed necessary to provide additional supports to these populations. Staff may include, but not be limited to, personnel dedicated to improving reading comprehension and math proficiency, or who provide additional wrap-around services or mental health supports. Funding allocations shall be made available to LEAs upon the passage of the FY23 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.

**Mental Health and/or Reading** - \$8 million to be apportioned to schools which meet the following criteria based on prior year unit count: (1) a grade configuration containing kindergarten through fourth grade and (2) greater than or equal to 30% Low income and/or greater than or equal to 10% English learner enrollment. These funds for mental health support shall be in the form of school counselors, school social workers or licensed clinical social workers, school psychologist and/or for additional reading supports for grade K-5. Services may include the employment of staff, where such funding may be used to cover 100% of personnel costs on a 10-12-month basis and/or contracted services.

All districts shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local costs associated with this appropriation.

**Accountability:**

For FY23, local school boards shall allocate not less than 98% of the total allocation it receives generated by a specific school to that school. A local school board that wishes to allocate the funds in a different manner may do so in accordance with 14 Del. C. §1704(4).

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Districts and charter schools shall submit an annual report to the Department of Education on the use of the funds no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year detailing how each school expended the funds earned and total expenditures by school, and make those reports publicly available on their website.

**Metrics:** Academic growth, progress toward English language proficiency (ELP) and mathematics proficiency, and reduction in chronic absenteeism.

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.

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**District/Charter Information**

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 326 Ruthar Drive	CITY: Newark	ZIP CODE: 19711

**Main Contact Information**

CONTACT NAME: Margie Lopez Waite	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302.292.1463
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: Margie.lopezwaite@laaa.k12.de.us	

School Name	Flexible Funding	Total Flex LEA	Mental Health and/or Reading	Total MH and/or Reading LEA
(568) Las Americas ASPIRA Academy	\$425,282.00		\$276,761	
		<b>\$425,282.00</b>		<b>\$276,761</b>

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Investment and Goals by SCHOOL

Provide additional detail about the plan in the chart by school for each Opportunity Funding investment with its associated cost and proposed impact. These charts should be copied and completed for each school receiving funds. For each investment, include baseline data and numeric targets to measure impact. A state budget sheet will be completed by the district/charter after the plan has been approved.

SCHOOL NAME: Las Americas ASPIRA Academy	
SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS: 326 Ruthar Drive	CITY: Newark
	ZIP CODE: 19711

School Contact Information

CONTACT NAME: Margie Lopez Waite	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302.292.1463
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: Margie.lopezwaite@laaa.k12.de.us	

Will 98% of flexible funding remain allocated to this school?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will 98% of mental health and/or reading funds remain allocated to this school?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Flexible Funding Investment</u> (05297)	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Expected Impact</u> (Explain the expected impact of this investment and how you will measure effectiveness.)	<u>Continued</u> <u>Opp. Funding</u> <u>Investment</u> <u>from</u> <u>2021-22?</u>
<i>EXAMPLE: Hire full time 1 social worker</i>	\$42,000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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<p><i>EXAMPLE: Contracted full-time school-based EL coach</i></p>	<p>\$70,000</p>	<p><i>Example: The contracted English learner coach will support schoolwide implementation of the WIDA English Language Development Standards. The coach will provide professional learning and in-classroom supports to all educators on the integration of content and language. The expected impact is a change in teacher practice, based on classroom walkthroughs, ultimately leading to increased outcomes on both content assessments and ACCESS ELP targets.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Bi-literacy instructional coach to provide PD, coaching and support for immersion teachers to improve instructional delivery and student outcomes.</p>	<p>\$107,687</p>	<p>Support teachers in delivering sheltered instruction so that LAAA is advancing students first language as well as their second language.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Climate and Culture Specialists</p>	<p>\$197,018</p>	<p><u>Trauma- Sensitive School</u> During the 2019-2022 school years, LAAA engaged in several activities to strengthen their commitment to EL and LI students. This is an on-going commitment. LAAA plans to continue in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage the staff in on-going professional development to support the SEL needs of students.</li> <li>• Allocate Climate and Culture Specialists to work with staff and students to support a positive learning environment and provide discipline strategies and options that keep students in the classroom, retain one full time specialist, and add another C &amp; C Specialist for the 2022-2023 school year.</li> <li>• Contract with mental health agencies as needed to provide therapy for students</li> </ul>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide targeted support to families through the LAAA Family Resource Center Coordinator</li> </ul> <p>To support our EL and LI students, we have made an investment in becoming a more trauma-sensitive school by focusing on the whole child. Building on statewide training that all staff attended during SY 20 we will continue to focus on supporting school employees in understanding how trauma and other external factors can affect student learning. As a Responsive Classroom school, we have built an infrastructure to support the social and emotional needs of our students. However, it is important to engage our employees in continued professional learning to build their knowledge and strategies to support all students, especially those identified as EL and LI.</p> <p>The LAAA Climate and Culture team oversees our school-wide character development program, as well as addresses the social and emotional needs of our students. They take a proactive approach to helping students with conflict resolution and coping skills. To expand their reach, three years ago through Opportunity Grant funding we were able to hire a full time Climate and Culture Specialist and a School Counselor who work with students in the lower school. The Climate and Culture Specialist and School Counselor provide targeted support to our EL and LI students.</p>	
ELL Teacher	\$120,577	<p>Provide support to classroom teachers around strategies to support EL and those can do descriptors for the students in their classroom</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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<u>Mental Health and/or Reading (if applicable) (05311)</u>	<u>Cost (hired or contracted, if applicable)</u>	<u>Expected Impact</u>	<u>Continued Opp. Funding Investment from 2021-22?</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Counselor</li> <li>• School Social Worker</li> <li>• Licensed Clinical Social Worker</li> <li>• School Psychologist</li> <li>• Reading Supports</li> </ul>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>School Counselor</i>	<i>\$78,770</i>	This position will continue to complement the Culture & Climate team by supporting our elementary school students (grades K-5) develop social and emotional skills to respond to issues and challenges they face, while supporting their academic success as part of our MTSS program. To support our EL and LI students, we have made an investment in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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		<p>becoming a more trauma-sensitive school by focusing on the whole child. Building on statewide training that all staff attended during SY 20 we will continue to focus on supporting school employees in understanding how trauma and other external factors can affect student learning. As a Responsive Classroom school, we have built an infrastructure to support the social and emotional needs of our students. However, it is important to engage our employees in continued professional learning to build their knowledge and strategies to support all students, especially those identified as EL and LI. The LAAA Climate and Culture team oversees our school-wide character development program, as well as addresses the social and emotional needs of our students. They take a proactive approach to helping students with conflict resolution and coping skills. To expand their reach, 2 years ago through Opportunity Grant funding we were able to hire a full time Climate and Culture Specialist and a School Counselor who work with students in the lower school. The Climate and Culture Specialist and School Counselor provide targeted support to our EL and LI students. When needed, we also contract with a mental health agency to provide therapy sessions during the school day. In addition to the Climate and Culture team, the LAAA Family Resource Center Coordinator provides targeted support to our EL and LI families, which consists of information workshops, literacy classes (English and Spanish), financial assistance (i.e., school uniforms, backpacks, school supplies) and resource referrals.</p>	
<p><i>Student &amp; Family Specialist (New Position)</i></p>	<p><i>\$78,457 (Hired)</i></p>	<p>Licensed Clinical Social Worker - This new position will complement the Culture &amp; Climate team by supporting students and their families with a more holistic approach to student behavior. This person will provide individual, group and family therapy to develop strategies to change behavior or address difficult situations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<p><i>School Counselor (New Position)</i></p>	<p>\$74,324 (Hired)</p>	<p>This new position will complement the Culture &amp; Climate team by supporting our elementary school students (grades K-5) develop social and emotional skills to respond to issues and challenges they face, while supporting their academic success as part of our MTSS program. See description above (School Counselor).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Bi-literacy Instructional Coach</p>	<p>\$45,210</p>	<p>During SY 23, LAAA will continue the following steps to strengthen our commitment to our EL and LI students specifically: Employ four (4) ESL teachers to provide in class and pull-out instruction for EL students to increase their English language proficiency and support them in meeting with success in their content area coursework. LAAA will retain a full-time Biliteracy Coach who works with teachers providing them professional development, coaching and instructional support to improve their instructional practice and increase specifically EL and LI students' achievement in ELA and reading.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

**Assurances and Signatures**

The applicant assures that:

As the chief school officer of the district or charter 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, regulatory, 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.

**Chief School Officer:** Margie Lopez Waite

Signature:  Date: Aug 5, 2022

As the business manager of the district or charter school, I am authorized to submit the budget(s) and financial information contained 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 approved the submission of the budget(s) for the form. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements.

**Business Manager:** Greg Panchisin

Signature:  Date: Aug 5, 2022

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

**Secretary of Education/Designee:** Maria Rodriguez

Signature:  Date: 8/9/22