



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

For more information contact: Maria Rodriguez  
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**Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2023**

**Delaware Department of Education  
2022-2023 School Year**

**Opportunity Funding**

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

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:**

**Delaware Department of Education**  
**2022-2023 School Year**

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).

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.

**Delaware Department of Education  
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**Application deadline: July 29, 2022**

**District/Charter Information**

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: First State Montessori Academy		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 1000 N French St	CITY: Wilmington	ZIP CODE: 19801

**Main Contact Information**

CONTACT NAME: Courtney Fox	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-576-1500
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: Courtney.fox@fsma.k12.de.us	

School Name	Flexible Funding	Total Flex LEA	Mental Health and/or Reading	Total MH and/or Reading LEA
(4050) First State Montessori Academy	\$35,748.00			
		<b>\$35,748.00</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: First State Montessori Academy		
SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS: 1000 N French St	CITY: Wilmington	ZIP CODE: 19801

School Contact Information

CONTACT NAME: Courtney Fox	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-576-1500
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: Courtney.fox@fsma.k12.de.us	

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

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<b><u>Flexible Funding Investment (05297)</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Impact</u> (Explain the expected impact of this investment and how you will measure effectiveness.)</b>	<b><u>Continued Opp. Funding investment from 2021-22?</u></b>
<i>Hire full-time reading specialist (pay part of salary with this funding)</i>	\$35,748	<p>This position will be responsible for additional reading support in K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In addition, this person will train and coach teachers in effective strategies for teaching reading. Specifically, this teacher will work with Low-Income Students who are identified through the MTSS process.</p> <p>FSMA will review the DIBELS scores of students working directly with this reading specialist as well as reviewing classroom scores for teachers working with the reading specialist. FSMA will compare growth with other students to determine effectiveness.</p> <p>This teacher has also been trained in EL identification and will support students identified as English Learners in a variety of ways – through direct instruction, student support, teacher consult, etc.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**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.

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**Chief School Officer:** Courtney Fox  
Signature: Courtney Fox Date: 7-14-22

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:** Courtney Fox  
Signature: Courtney Fox Date: 7-14-22

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

**Secretary of Education/Designee:** Cora L. Scott, Deputy Secretary of Education  
Signature: Cora L. Scott Date: 7/14/22

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