

*Milford 6/29/20*

*Delaware*



*Department of Education*

# Opportunity Funding

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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2021

Opportunity Funding  
*Directed Funds for English Learners and Low-Income Students*

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

**Application deadline: June 30, 2020**

**Purpose:** The Opportunity Funding initiative creates a three-year weighted funding program across the state. Delaware is currently one of only a handful of states without additional funding for English learners (ELs) and/or low-income students (low-income).

**Allocation Method:** Local education agencies (LEAs) will receive \$500 per EL and \$300 per low income student. Funding shall be made available to LEAs upon the passage of the FY20 budget in early July so they 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 English learners', 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: Milford School District		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 906 Lakeview Avenue	CITY: Milford	ZIP CODE: 19963

**Contact Information**

CONTACT NAME: Sara Croce	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-422-1609
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**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.*

The Milford School District continues to experience a significant growth in the population of English Learner (EL) and Low Income (LI) students. In Fiscal Year 2019, the district was fortunate to receive Opportunity Grant funds for Lulu M. Ross Elementary. Using these funds to provide an additional EL staff member to reduce the student caseload provided great benefits. In addition, the funds were amended to provide summer programming for EL students at Ross during the summer of 2019. Additionally, we saw great success with the funds allocated for Fiscal Year 2020 but were unable to fully implement our summer program in 2020 due to the global COVID19 pandemic. We anticipate a robust summer program in 2021 using our opportunity funds.

Using the data collected from Ross Elementary in the initial grant proposal and data collected throughout last year, we have identified the need to continue employment of EL certified teachers at both Milford Central Academy and Milford High School to support our growing caseload of EL and newcomer students at the secondary level. Additionally, we feel that reading intervention is a key component to assisting struggling EL and LI students. Our plan continues to support a Reading Interventionist at each elementary school to focus on increasing reading proficiency and enhancing academic vocabulary. We feel strongly that the personnel identified in this plan will raise the academic achievement of both EL and LI students.

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The district has identified a need for providing additional instructional opportunities after school and during the summer months. After-school programs allow for a blend of both academic and social skill building. Summer programming supports year-round student involvement to ensure students are maintaining or increasing proficiency before advancing to the next grade level.

Test score data has shown that there is an achievement gap between the all student group and EL or LI students across our district. Using the opportunity grant funds, in combination with our federal funds, we plan to offer additional staff and increase instructional opportunities for students to increase achievement in novel ways.

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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 2019-20? (yes/no)
(Please list your priority. Examples: -“Hire full time 1 social worker” - “Purchase RULER for grades 7-9”)	For 2020-21 (\$)	Raise ELL student achievement	Raise LI student achievement	Increase attendance for ELL students	Increase attendance of LI students	Other, specify	
Hire three (3) ESL Certified Teachers	\$269,651.00	X		X			Yes

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Hire two (2) Reading Interventionist positions	\$184,000.00	X	X			Yes
Create Academic Learning Centers at three (3) locations	\$140,000.00	X	X	X	X	Yes
Summer Camp for identified LI and EL students	\$111,800.00	X	X	X	X	Yes
Increase by five (5) each year for three years the number of teachers who are dual certified in a content and ESOL	\$10,000.00	X		X		Yes
Provide Lead EL Teacher Stipend	\$2,500.00	X		X		Yes
Hire two (2) Student and Family Interventionists	\$184,000.00	X	X	X	X	Yes
Provide outreach to area PreK programs to support increased Kindergarten Readiness	\$5,000.00	X	X	X	X	Yes