

*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: POLYTECH School District		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS: 823 Walnut Shade Road, P.O. Box 22	CITY: Woodside	ZIP CODE: 19980

**Contact Information**

CONTACT NAME: Amelia E. Hodges	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 302-697-2170
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: amelia.hodges@polytech.k12.de.us	

**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.*

POLYTECH School District will supplement Opportunity Funding with IDEA funds to support a Student Support Specialist (teacher contract) position. This position will provide visiting teacher services to students and families in need; coordinate supports for low-income, homeless and foster care students; coordinate services for English learner (EL) services; coordinate homebound education services; and provide consultative special education services to promote student success in CTE and World language classrooms.

The Student Support Specialist will provide a variety of supports including, but not limited to: connecting students to mental health and wellness supports, conducting academic progress and attendance checks and counseling, arranging transportation services if necessary, and assisting transitions to post-secondary life (FASFA and college application completion, employment searches, et cetera). This staff member will also connect families to state and community supports and resources as needed.

**Application deadline: June 30, 2020**

**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.*

<b>Investment</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Expected impact</b> (Check all that apply)					<b>Is this a continued Opp. Funding investment from 2019-20? (yes/no)</b>
(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	
Partially fund Student Support Specialist to support at-risk and high need students (homeless, foster care, EL, low-income, homebound, and special education)	\$63,300	X	X	X	X	Connect students to mental health and wellness supports, and assist transition to post-secondary life. Also connect students and their families to community supports and resources as needed	Yes