Delaware

Department of
Education

Opportunity Funding

For more information contact:
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Secretary of Education
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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2020

Delaware Department of Education
Opportunity Funding Form
2019-2020 School Year

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

Application deadline: June 30, 2019

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.

Results from the first year of funding will be finalized in August 2020. Subsequently, DDOE will host a summit in early fall to share the report and best practices. In late fall 2020, the third-party evaluation will be complete and results will be posted after districts and charters verify them.

Application deadline: June 30, 2019

School Information

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME:		
Thomas A. Edison Charter School		
DISTRICT/CHARTER STREET ADDRESS:	CITY:	ZIP CODE:
2200 North Locust Street	Wilmington	19802

Contact Information

CONTACT NAME:	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:
Patricia S. Winder	302-778-1101
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:	
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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.

We are a School Wide Title I school in a high poverty, high crime, and high needs community. Thomas Edison's student population is 95% Free/Reduced Breakfast/Lunch based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines. We claim 100% for provision 2. This means the target population is 100% of students in K-8th grades. 727 students registered for the 2019-2020.

The technology investments made in this plan will raise the academic achievement of the Thomas Edison student body. These funds will support low-income students with struggling academics through access to technology. Traditionally, access to technology is not equitable across racial and socioeconomic lines, since it is determined by resources available to schools and school districts, but this grant will give us the opportunity to close that gap. For years, poor and minority students have been at a disadvantage when it comes to access to new technology. Equal access to technology benefits all children and tremendously impacts poor and minority students. There is a strong relationship between the use of technology and the academic achievement of students from impoverished backgrounds. Low-income students are able to receive a similar education to that of their more fortunate peers when they have access to academic programs that utilize the most advanced technological tools. Our goal at TECS is to provide our students with access to knowledge-building and communication tools, and more personalized learning experiences. Students who do not have access to high-quality, personalized learning experiences at school, which include the use of technology, are not being provided with the opportunities they need to be successful in school and in life. Technology in schools improves engagement, knowledge retention, individualized learning, and encourages collaboration. Technology can also improve teaching with countless online resources and students can learn useful life skills essential for the 21st century.

To ensure the technology investment is successful, equipment usage and activity will be monitored and evaluated by owners on a monthly basis and reported to the administrative team. The Principal, Assistant Principal, and teachers will give input on effectiveness by measuring student discipline and academic progress. There will be monthly meetings to discuss student progress. Professional development outcomes will be determined by classroom observations.

2019-2020

Opportunity Funding - Proposed Impact	167,000.00
Student Laptops	(50,000.00)
Smartboards	(63,000.00)
Student I-Pads	(54,000.00)

- Teachers will use Smartboards and other technology to access benchmark assessments, such as, Aimsweb, IAB & IAC Assessments. Aimsweb uses standard-aligned measures to assist teachers with uncovering learning gaps, identify at-risk students, and assess individual and classroom growth. Teachers will be able to screen for behavior and dyslexia, as well. Teachers will also monitor the students progress using these tracking tools.

- Teachers will be able to access student textbooks on Smartboards through Learn Zillion. Teachers will also use Smartboards for instructional programs for the following: Achieve 3000, Khan Academy, Dreambox, Schoology, and Edulastic.

- Students will use the laptops & I-Pads to access instructional programs like Achieve 3000. Achieve will increase the reading achievement and overall literacy of our low income and at-risk and students. Students will use laptops & I-Pads for DreamBox, which is an interactive online math program. They will also use Illustrative Math through the Learn Zillion platform and Edulastic. Finally, the students will use these technology tools to access Boardworks which is built from State and Common Core Standards. Boardworks resources map to our curriculum and help standardize teaching and learning for all low income and ELL students across our school. Boardworks provides a common technology framework for students, and supports consistency in lessons in each classroom.

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 *(What is your priority?)*	Cost	Proposed Impact *(How will you know it worked?)*
Student Laptops	50,000	• See Attached
Smartboards	63,000	• See Attached
Student I-Pads	54,000	• See Attached
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		•
		•
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Application deadline: June 30, 2019

Assurances and Signatures

The applicant assures that:

As the chief school officer of the district or charter 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.

Chief School Officer: Salome Thomas-EL

Signature: _____ Date: 11/25/2019

As the business manager of the district or charter school; including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit the budget 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