



"Achieving Excellence, Honoring Tradition"

FY 2026 Funding Plan to Encompass Student Wellness and Success and DPIA

Identification of Need

The current state budget allocates funds for Student Wellness and Success. The new State Funding formula subjects the funding that Delaware City Schools receives to a phase-in, and thus, we continue not to be fully funded. We have continued to grow as Delaware County continues to grow, and the needs within our district have continued to grow. It has been evident that we needed to add positions to match the growing number of students and their needs. We recognized the needs, but did not have the funds to meet many of these needs.

Our District Safety Team and our Teaching and Learning Team met to discuss the needs of the district and to determine what our high-priority needs would be for this funding. We have many amazing partners, and we look forward to enhancing and building on these partnerships. For the purpose of this plan, we are partnering with Syntero, a mental health agency, and the Education Service Center of Central Ohio.

Plan for the use of the Funds

- A. The Student Wellness and Success Funds for FY2026 will be used in the following ways:
 - 1. We will maintain a social worker or social skills specialist at each of our five elementary buildings to support students with their social and emotional needs.
 - 2. We will have either a part-time or full-time nurse at our elementary buildings to lower the ratios between our nurses and students.
 - 3. We will have a nurse to serve our preschool students.
 - 4. We will continue to use the funds for the Syntero clinicians in our schools to reduce the waitlist.
 - 5. We will use the funds to contract with Delaware County Court to support a court liaison to wrap around our students and families.
- B. Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid Funds for FY2026 will be used for the following initiative, as established under the previously-funded Economic Disadvantaged needs:

1. The continuation of a Literacy Instructional Coach to coordinate and provide support in the implementation of the Science of Reading throughout the district. This role will assist in the implementation of the new literacy curriculum and professional development needs in literacy instruction.
2. Instructional Technology or Blended Learning- We will continue to employ technology aides at our elementary schools to help improve our blended learning approach. We also provide technology devices and software for students to utilize in this approach.

We will continue to review these expenses to see if they are having the positive impact we anticipated and will make adjustments and enhancements as needed. We will continue to assess the needs of our students.

Goals

Our social skills specialists/ social workers will identify needs at the building level with the Student Support Teams. This implementation will help students to be more successful in the classroom.

Our school nurses and clinic aides will work together to ensure the student ratios are even between all of our buildings to meet the specific medical needs of all students.

Our focus on professional learning will center around effective instructional practices, and student and staff sense of belonging to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all.

Additional Syntero clinicians will reduce the waitlist and increase the linking of students with clinicians for counseling. This will also increase the consistency for the students because it will take place at school during the school day.

The Court Liaison will provide support for our students and families to help increase attendance and reduce non-academic barriers to education.

The Literacy Instructional Coach will provide support at the district level for teachers and administrators to successfully implement the Science of Reading, new curriculum, and data collection and analysis for both the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and the Improving K-3 Literacy calculation.

Our Technology Aides will provide support for our students to increase their use and understanding of technology and blended learning, and our students will have access to the devices and software they need to make the blended learning approach successful.

Results

This is a continued endeavor for us with the budget allocations for Student Wellness and Success and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid. We will closely monitor what we have implemented and continue to gather data during the year. We will then review all of the data to see what is working, what needs to be adjusted, and what additions might be needed.

The undersigned individuals have reviewed and/or contributed to this plan for implementation.

Jill Corwin, CFO, Delaware City Schools

Erica Wood, MA, LPCC-S-Director of Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives-Delaware/Morrow County, Syntero

Keith Pomeroy, Superintendent, Delaware City Schools