

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Background/Instructions**

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Background and InstructionsBackground

Section 10-d of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2021, as amended by §5-b of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, requires school districts receiving a foundation aid increase of more than 10% or \$10,000,000 to create plans on how these funds will be used to address student performance and need. These plans are required in advance of the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. This is the final year that this requirement is in effect. Plans for the 2023-24 school year must be completed, submitted to the department, and posted to district websites by July 1, 2023.

Each district subject to this requirement is required to:

- Seek public comment from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders;
- Take public comments into account in the development of the plan;
- Include an analysis of public comments within the plan;
- Describe in the plan how the foundation aid increase will be used, including portions of the increase used to address the priority areas identified by law;
- Post the plan on the district website; and
- Submit the plan to the State Education Department in a form prescribed by the Department to be posted publicly.

This requirement does not replace any requirements under Contracts for Excellence. If your district is required to submit a contract for excellence, more information is available at this page.

The list of school districts that are required to submit a plan aligned with the increase in foundation aid may be found in the "*Foundation Aid Increase Notification Guidance*" memo located in the *Documents* library at the lower left of the application. It should be noted that this requirement does not obligate districts to spend additional foundation aid funds in specific ways, but does require district seek public comment and share plans on how they intend to spend these additional funds. Plans are required to cover only the foundation aid *increase*. The plan should *not* cover how the district intends to use its *entire* foundation aid amount. Describe in the plan how the foundation aid increase will be used, along with key goals, metrics, or ratios, and the community feedback reflected for portions of the increase used to address any of the following priority areas, as well as any additional areas identified by the district:

1. Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap;
2. Reducing class sizes;
3. Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas;
4. Addressing student social-emotional health;
5. Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities; and students experiencing homelessness;

Instructions

- The *Foundation Aid Increase Survey* is due by July 1, 2023.
- Districts must complete all sections and are required to answer questions marked with a red asterisk. If a required question has not been completed, the business portal will highlight it in red and the section of the application will be flagged. The district will be unable to submit the application to NYSED for final review if a required question remains unresolved.
- The online application may only be submitted/certified by the chief school officer of the district. The designated superintendent or the chief executive officer, or board of trustees president are the only administrators with the submit/certify rights necessary to successfully submit and certify a completed application for NYSED review.
- Districts are NOT REQUIRED to send hard copies of survey materials to the Department.

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Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

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Use of Foundation Aid Increase

1. Please describe how the district plans to utilize funds provided by the foundation aid increase in the following priority areas.
If these funds will not be used for one of the priority areas listed below, please respond with "N/A."

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap	Add 1 FTE SPED Teacher - Math/Science - High School	70% of the feedback agreed and 10% asked for additional information	\$80,000
Reducing class sizes	.5 Music Teacher - Middle School	70% of the feedback agreed and 10% asked for clarification	\$40,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Addition of 3 FTE AIS Teachers - 1 at each school	70% of the feedback agreed and 10% asked for clarification	\$280,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Maintain 1 FTE Guidance Counselor for the Elementary Level	70% of the feedback agreed and 10% asked for additional information	\$40,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	.5 ENL Teacher	70% of the feedback agreed and 10% asked for additional information	\$40,000

2. Please use the chart below to describe 'Other' priority areas not otherwise addressed in Item #1. Click on "Add Row" as applicable for additional priority areas.

Priority Area	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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3. **Please describe your analysis of public comment from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders on the plan. This analysis should include the approach to outreach that was implemented and common recommendations or suggestions. For recommendations not reflected in the plan above, what limitations or rationale led to the decision to not include? (250 words or less)**

The district did a number of things to gain feedback from all stakeholders to devise the 2023-24 budget. Each building submitted their requests to their respective principal and supervisor. The requests were then vetted with administration to formulate a preliminary budget. The district then held a number of public Finance/Budget meetings from February through April to discuss the budget and how the aid would be used. A survey was also sent out to all faculty, staff and parents/guardians explaining the requirement from NYSED, what aid we were set to receive, ideas devised from the district and finance/budget meetings with regard to a preliminary budget and gathering any additional feedback on the increase. The survey yielded the following:

70% of the responses agreed with the proposed budget

20% of the responses included comments and suggestions

-Asked to provide more opportunities for students and less on increases to salaries and benefits

-Use Title funds as opposed foundation aid for increased special education costs

-Add scholarships for graduating seniors, new personnel art supplies and instruments

-Look for ways to keep the additional AIS teacher in the future

10% of the responses asked specific questions on how the budget was devised

All of the following above help with supports for students and take into account feedback from the community, faculty and staff. The total is equal to 40% of the aid increase we were expecting to receive. The remaining funds will help offset normal increases in salaries, benefits, BOCES costs and special education increases.