

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

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**Background and Instructions**Background

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.

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**

## 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	The Mechanicville City School District will utilize foundation aide increases to provide additional opportunities for student graduation pathways to eliminate the achievement gap. In the 2023-2024 school year the Mechanicville City School District will add three additional teaching positions Physical Education, Technology, and a grade 5 teacher. With the added teaching positions students are able to choose from alternative pathways to graduation meeting students where they are at and addressing different learning styles. With the increase of additional pathways students will be able to select a pathway that interests and engages them as well as fits their needs for future opportunities thus increasing the graduation rate.	The Mechanicville City School District has consulted a panel of parents, local community agencies, Teacher Union leaders, and staff to obtain feedback and needs from all perspectives. District level leaders reviewed all needs, requests, and wants to determine next steps for utilization of additional foundation aide to benefit the overall student body.	286787
Reducing class sizes	The Mechanicville City School District will utilize foundation aide to decrease class sizes at the Jr/Sr high School level and Elementary level. In the 2023-2024 school year the Mechanicville City School District will add three additional teaching positions including Physical Education and Technology educator at the High School level reducing class sizes and providing students with additional learning opportunities. At the Elementary level an additional Grade 5 teacher will be added to reduce class sizes and focus on writing skills. With the increase of teaching staff class sizes will be reduced as well as expanded learning opportunities for students.	The Mechanicville City School District has consulted a panel of parents, local community agencies, Teacher Union leaders, and staff to obtain feedback and needs from all perspectives. District level leaders reviewed all needs, requests, and wants to determine next steps for utilization of additional foundation aide to benefit the overall student body.	286787
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The Mechanicville City School District will utilize foundation aide increases to provide supports for students not meeting state learning standards in core academic areas. The district will provide additional	The Mechanicville City School District has consulted a panel of parents, local community agencies, Teacher Union leaders, and staff to obtain feedback and needs from all perspectives. District level	59000

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	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	opportunities for students to engage in AIS and lab classes to address the learning gap at all levels. Students benchmark data and performance target data will be utilized to determine the need for extra assistance in core areas. Additional foundation aide will assist the district to provide such services. Additional resource will be purchased for usage including chromebooks and nuline boards which will assist with differentiated instruction and assignments	leaders reviewed all needs, requests, and wants to determine next steps for utilization of additional foundation aide to benefit the overall student body.	
Addressing student social-emotional health	The Mechanicville City School District will utilize foundation aide to address student social-emotional health. The district will add a SEL Administrator who will focus on developing, implementing, and evaluating SL programing for students and staff that fosters positive mental health, emotional well-being, and academic success.	The Mechanicville City School District has consulted a panel of parents, local community agencies, Teacher Union leaders, and staff to obtain feedback and needs from all perspectives. District level leaders reviewed all needs, requests, and wants to determine next steps for utilization of additional foundation aide to benefit the overall student body.	71727
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The Mechanicville City School District will utilize foundation aide to ensure students with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness receive the supports and services required. Additional aide will be t provide educational and social emotional supports to Special Education Students, English Language Learners and McKinney Vento eligible students. Additional aide will be utilized for any other special education needs presented. With the increase in students experiencing homelessness and falling under McKinney Vento the aid will be utilized to ensure students receive transportation and other necessary supplies as situations preset.	The Mechanicville City School District has consulted a panel of parents, local community agencies, Teacher Union leaders, and staff to obtain feedback and needs from all perspectives. District level leaders reviewed all needs, requests, and wants to determine next steps for utilization of additional foundation aide to benefit the overall student body.	59000

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.

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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.)**

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 analysis of public comment from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders is an increased need for graduation pathways as well as increased supports for students falling below grade level. Fact finding conversations were held with each group to determine needs. After initial conversations a larger group was convened and analysis conducted of overall needs of the district. Discussions were held during board meetings as well as with board committees and community forums . Common suggestions and feedback were discussed as smaller groups and then as a larger whole group to determine best next steps and implementation for the district.