

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	Goals include increase in-house career and technical education programming for students, providing credit recovery and AIS opportunities and enhanced offerings in summer school. These additions include (5) teaching positions and the associated benefits at the elementary level to provide support for primary-level intervention.	Community perspective included feedback that students, having had the unprecedented experience of COVID-19 particularly, should have every opportunity to succeed and that the District can offer these opportunities, both in the school day and after-school and evenings.	485000
Reducing class sizes	Maintenance of classroom teachers K-12, despite declining enrollment, to produce opportunities for lower class enrollments	Hampton Bays has traditionally had a class size average above the regional average. Feedback included support to both maintain staff and add staff to keep class sizes low in comparison to the region.	25000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Continuation of two interventionist teachers in Grades 5-6 to support kids at risk; purchase and training related to reading remediation supports for both classified and unclassified students.	Community feedback was supportive as the rounds of data showed gap closing achievement for students in Math and ELA.	15000
Addressing student social-emotional health	increase of a school social worker and a teacher assistant to support community outreach initiatives, in addition to the regular cost increases associated with the three existing social workers and four existing psychologists and the associated clerical staffing to support those efforts.	Supportive feedback from the community to address the social and mental health of students.	100000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	An increase in this area was identified in the 2021-22 budget and maintained for 2022-23 and will be again in 2023-24.	Community feedback was supportive given the 3 ENL teachers added in 21-22.	10000

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 (\$)
Upgraded facility repair for health and safety purposes	A review of facilities needs yielded several one-time expenses to physical plant that would support the academic, co-curricular and athletic facilities to support student achievement	The community feedback included a goal that one-time expenses are beneficial to focus on now while foundation aid is being increased and fully-phased in.	654,000
Maintaining Tax Levy for the Benefit of the Community	Zero percent tax levy increase	The Hampton Bays community has, for a generation, had the highest tax rate and lowest per pupil spending in the region. Feedback included that additional foundation aid should benefit the student program and also the local taxpayer, so that their continued support of the school district program can be sustained.	971,000
Mitigating Challenges Related to Transportation Staffing Shortages	Provide in-house transportation options that allow the district to serve its transportation needs that our third-party has not been able to.	The community has provided consistent and strong feedback that transportation staffing struggles have impacted families and the opportunity to add capacity would be welcomed.	100,000
Clerical Support for Enduring Institution	Providing clerical support for e-archiving and attendance monitoring to address chronic absenteeism	Community feedback was supportive of adding "back of the house" support to address these key infrastructure areas.	52,000
Sustaining Academic & Administrative Operations	Application of foundation aid increases to provide funding for contractual obligations across all bargaining units.	The community consistently reported that fulfilling contracts to staff will result in the continuity of services for students and the feedback was supportive.	400,000
Meeting Obligations and Preserving Reserves	The unprecedented 15% increase in employee benefits (health) as a result of the pandemic created an opportunity to use the foundation aid increase to meet our obligation without expending limited reserves.	The community's feedback on preserving limited reserves for long-term need was favorable.	817,743

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 discussed and presented its increase in Foundation Aid over 6 months at 7 board meetings. Meetings were also held with internal stakeholders, such as the administration team, department leaders, student council and parent-support organizations. These meetings created opportunities to receive feedback on budget planning and goal setting. A few themes emerged between the stakeholders, which were ultimately reflected in the approved 2023-24 school budget:

1. Reduce class size. This is accomplished by maintaining faculty despite a current decline in student enrollment and anticipated continued decline of student enrollment.
2. Support the increased needs of students. The addition of a school social worker, by doubling our social worker capacity since 2019 (2 to 4) supports the increased mental health needs of our students. In 2022-23, we will add a fourth, bilingual speech language pathologist to better serve our Spanish-speaking students as well.
3. Balance the support of this additional funding to benefit the local support of school. This third year of Foundation Aid increase has gone, in part, to support a limited tax levy increase to help mitigate the highest tax rate in the region.
4. Student feedback included maintaining opportunities for students that include sports (addition of Middle School Cheerleading), co-curricular (Gender, Gay/Straight Alliance), and academic programming (Computer Programming, Child Psychology, Culinary Arts - Baking & Pastry)