

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	0	0	0
Reducing class sizes	Keep the existing class sizes in High School Foreign Language, Middle School Math, & 2nd grade equal or less than previous years.	The community did not want any existing programs reduced.	382053
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Continue to work to help keep students meet state standards especially in reading and math	Retain the 11 FTE staff in AIS Reading and Math in grades 5-12	445311
Addressing student social-emotional health	Keep the same level of social emotional health employees that the District currently employs - 22 FTE and create a family resource center	The community felt that coming off the pandemic, student social and emotional health should be our number one priority.	2474691
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Due to the increase in the number of students who need to be in Self Contained classrooms and CT classrooms, the District created a 2nd grade self contained CT classroom, an Intermediate 8:1:1 classromm with an aide, a Middle School 6th Grade CT classroom with an aide and hired 2 FTE High School Personal Care Aides for students who need 1:1 services	The community knows that Starpoint works tirelessly to ensure that students with special needs receive the services they need and deserve.	463162

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 (\$)
Enhancing the student experience	In order to maintain a 92% or better attendance level, the District continues to add programs that will help students stay engaged in school by adding clubs and sports	The community understands that the District is the hub of the community and wants the students to stay in school and graduate on time.	64,107

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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 (\$)
Student safety in the pool	The District wants to ensure that a certified lifeguard is on hand at all times and that swim classes do not have to be cancelled due to lack of a life guard	The Starpoint pool is used by the majority of our students in grades 3-8 as well swimming lessons are given to hundreds of students per year during community ed. The community wants to pool to remain open.	48,604

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 District held 8 budget meetings that included discussions about the 23-24 budget including all expenditures and revenues (Including Foundation Aid). The District also live streamed and recorded these presentations and feedback discussions from all community members who were interested but could not attend in person. The District also held one meeting where a presentation specifically about foundation aid was discussed and community members were given a chance to give any feedback either in-person or remotely (Through Zoom). The District felt it was necessary to live stream and record the presentations and feedback so all stakeholders could be given a chance to comment. These meetings were publically advertised and reminders were sent out through the District's all call/messaging system.

The most common feedback was that the social/emotional health of all students and staff were of the utmost importance. As such, the District kept its entire counseling/Psychologist and Social Worker staff intact and then took the further step to create a family resource center where community members will not only be able to access support for their children, but also for themselves.