

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	The District will implement effective and efficient resources and programs to ensure a world-class learning environment. All schools will provide continuous student learning, growth, and achievement, including technology access, critical thinking skills development, and readiness to act as advocates for social change. Funds will also be used to maintain existing programs, recruit and retain highly qualified personnel (teachers, admin, and staff), expand student data analysis, and support contract increases	Outside of requesting additional mental health programs, the community is satisfied with the District's educational plan.	3,500,000
Reducing class sizes	The District will continue to split schedules in High & Middle school semester courses. Funds will allow the district to maintain staff, pay for contractual increases, and reduce learning lag.	The community supports the reduction of class sizes and maintaining efficient staff.	1,500,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The District will continue to provide academic intervention programs, increase the use of technology, inquiry-based instruction, teacher collaboration, and the summer bridge programs.	The community is supportive of the District's agenda to prioritize at risk students.	1,000,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District made it its mission to create an equitable environment that encourages active learning, continuous growth, and social-emotional and academic success for every child, without exception. The Foundation Aid increase provides the necessary foundation and tools to actualize our vision of a strong district, one that ensures all staff members and students are healthy, safe, supported, engaged, and challenged.	The community feels that the District should provide additional social-emotional and mental health programs.	500,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District will continue to meet the needs of our growing population of English language learners; the District will increase the number of special education integrated co-teaching and self-contained classes to	The community is supportive of the District's mission for Students with Disabilities.	2,000,000

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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 (\$)
	better meet the needs of Students with Disabilities. All SWD will continue to receive adequate resources and strategies that are aligned with their IEPs. Funds will be used to pay for staff, private and public placement of students with disabilities, transportation, and resources needed to maintain educational requirements.		

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 (\$)
OTHER	The Foundation Aid increase will also pay approximately \$2M in Charter School tuition increases from the 2022-23 to 2023-24 school year, ongoing professional development and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) training for faculty & staff, and expenditure increases in TRS, ERS, and health benefits.	The community had no feedback regarding other District priorities.	5,000,000

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 below list is responses from community members collected during various touchpoints, including Board of Education meetings, parent-teacher conferences, community engagement events, and from staff members that are residents.

- Clear, aspirational goals for student success and explicit steps for accomplishing them.
- A recommitment to equity of opportunities and resources for every student; that means doing all we must to create conditions for success that are fair and just for every learner.
- Transparency with spending.
- Working hard to retain the trust and engagement of our families and community, who have placed their cherished children in our collective care.