

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

Page Last Modified: 06/05/2023

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/21/2023

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	The District's goal is to provide small class sizes to enhance more individualized instruction for students and to provide opportunities for small group instruction. This goal requires the District to hire additional teaching staff, particularly at the Elementary level. The districts is maintaining average class sizes at grades K - 3 at fifteen students. The average class size at grades 4-6 is sixteen students.	The community ranked this as a top priority with 2% of the community ranking this as a priority.	130321
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide additional time for our Principals' to focus on curricular and instructional supports for students in need and expand our one to one technology program through the purchase of Chromebooks for PK-12 and replacement of our ActivPanels.	The community ranked this their top priority with 49% of the community ranking this as their number one priority.	180636
Addressing student social-emotional health	Continue the funding of a school social worker and school security officer who are currently being covered under the ARP funding and general fund..	The community ranked this their top priority with 50% of the community ranking this as their number one priority.	135118
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	N/A	N/A	0

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 (\$)
Continuation of reduction in class size and social emotional supports.	Continue funding the additional staffing that has been added by using ARP	These items reflect the communities top priorities and there is no indication	776,178

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/21/2023

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 (\$)
	funding, including teachers to reduce class sizes and special and occupational education and enrichment	that they want them to go away when the ARP funding goes away.	
Enrichment activities	Increase student's exposure to the world outside of the their rural community through technological advancement and grade level trips to places outside our rural area.	Educational enrichment activities was a top priority for the community.	62,103
(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)**

In addition to our normal budget process of public board meetings, annual budget hearing, and distribution of budget materials, including public notice, the district sent a public notice asking for feedback. The notice was sent out via social media and Operoo. Given the size of the community, we received a very low return rate. 50% of the community said their top priority was social-emotional support, 48% for supporting students in need, and 2% for reducing class sizes was their top priority. The district felt there were two main topics of interest from our community - social-emotional support, ensuring students have the teacher support they need, and enrichment experiences to support the whole student. In presenting the budget to the community that focused on these priorities, they voted to support that plan.