

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	NA	NA	0
Reducing class sizes	Reduce class sizes by maintaining 6 sections in Grade K, maintain 5 sections in grades 1-6; Provide extra sections in grades 8-12 for Earth Science, Social Studies (i.e. Global Studies), Math and Art.	Public budget meetings held during board of education budget workshops (1/5/23, 1/19/23, 2/2/23, 2/16/23, 3/9/23, and 3/23/23. Community Survey released in the month of May to collect feedback. District Steering Committee meeting on 5/22/23 reviewed the state and federal funding options.	1016910
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide secondary math courses designed around struggling students (i.e. Extended Algebra); Provide special education consultant courses (i.e. HS Science, HS English Regents Supported; Teacher Assistants to provide targeted instruction to students at risk	Public budget meetings held during board of education budget workshops (1/5/23, 1/19/23, 2/2/23, 2/16/23, 3/9/23, and 3/23/23. Community Survey released in the month of May to collect feedback. District Steering Committee meeting on 5/22/23 reviewed the state and federal funding options.	406125
Addressing student social-emotional health	NA	NA	0
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Providing adequate resources to students with disabilities	Public budget meetings held during board of education budget workshops (1/5/23, 1/19/23, 2/2/23, 2/16/23, 3/9/23, and 3/23/23. Community Survey released in the month of May to collect feedback. District Steering Committee meeting on 5/22/23 reviewed the state and federal funding options.	622853

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 (\$)
Dual Credit Courses	Continue to offer dual credit courses to	Public budget meetings held during	517,485

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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 (\$)
	allow to students to gain college credit	board of education budget workshops (1/5/23, 1/19/23, 2/2/23, 2/16/23, 3/9/23, and 3/23/23. Community Survey released in the month of May to collect feedback. District Steering Committee meeting on 5/22/23 reviewed the state and federal funding options.	

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 Seneca Falls CSD solicited input from stakeholders via a website survey and an in-person meeting for a group of district stakeholders for recommendations and suggestions regarding the spending outlined in our plan. Input was predominantly focused on student services (counseling, SEL etc.) and providing adequate resources to our ENL, Special Education, and homeless student population. Other suggestions were in regard to student access to devices and software, smaller class sizes and dual credit courses. The foundation aid increase for the 2023-24 academic year of \$2,563,418 equates to a 22.64% annual increase, which exceeds the 10% threshold for a required utilization plan. Despite the new planning mandate and earmarked suggestions, foundation aid remains an unrestricted aid category in its application. The New York State Education Department released a memo providing guidance on this legislative requirement.

The District began with a community survey to elicit responses on funding options. The survey was developed through a Google Form with 11 options and an open-ended choice. The survey was promoted on the District's website via a news story to draw attention to its completion (news story capture below). Survey completers included Teachers, Administrators, Parents, PTO Members, and a Community Members.

Respondents were asked to select three funding options from a list of options or choose "other" and specify the priority area. Survey results and the funding plan options were presented to the District Steering Committee on May 22nd. A draft of the Foundation Aid Plan was posted on the District's website after the District Steering Committee meeting and will be made final after Board of Education approval on June 22nd, 2023. The Foundation Aid plan will also be entered in and submitted through the NYS Business Portal before July 1, 2023.

The district utilizes a large amount of the stimulus funding for multi-tiered supports which was reflected in the survey as a high priority. Since the district utilizes that funding, the district utilized the foundation aid for 2023-24 towards supporting students with disabilities.