

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

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

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	Access to long-term programs for students needing additional support when transitioning programs (LTPP). Additional BOCES services, MTSS training, progress monitoring tools, and intervention services	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	268,000
Reducing class sizes	Maintaining of three additional elementary classroom teachers to reduce class sizes	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	224,700
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Two additional Academic Intervention teachers to provide Tier 2 and Tier 3 small group instruction as recommended through MTSS. Increase in phonetic instruction, curriculum, and staff training	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	194,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Two additional social workers were maintained to help meet the social-emotional needs of students. Services are provided informally and as mandated by 504 Accommodation Plans and IEPs. Having additional mental health supports available has created access for students.	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	182,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Creating more sections of Integrated Co-Teaching to reduce student-teacher ratio in special education classrooms. 0.5 FTE Speech Pathologist to provide mandated and non-mandated services to students. Accessible materials and communication devices for families of students	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May	456,000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/21/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	experiencing homelessness. Additional BOCES programs for students with disabilities.	2 & 16, June 6.	

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 (\$)
Instructional Technology	Increase student access to devices, software, and improve opportunities for students to utilize instructional technology through the purchase of new devices	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	330,000
Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	Improved cleanliness and safety of all buildings, fields, outdoor learning spaces by having district-wide support and supervision	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	90,000
Instructional Program	Maintain and enhance instructional programs through purchasing of evidence-based and content-specific materials. Pilot a new ELA program at two grade levels to evaluate improved curriculum opportunities	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	117,000
Campus Safety and Security	Inclusion of School Resource Officer to support all three campuses	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded	56,000

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 (\$)
		and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	DEI Liaison to work closely with staff, administration, and community to support district initiatives and help identify areas of needed support	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	27,000
Recruitment	Development of videos, materials, and strengthen approach to recruiting highly qualified candidates for teaching positions	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	23,000
Enrichment	Summer enrichment programs to keep students engaged and provide access to learning opportunities to increase competency and academic abilities.	Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.	42,000

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseUse of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/21/2023

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)**

Public comment time was built into all budget planning meetings with the BOE. Our meetings were all recorded and made public on our district website. Public was encouraged to send input and/or questions during each session. Dates (2023) include: Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14 & 28, Apr 18, May 2 & 16, June 6.

During our public budget presentations, we made sure to highlight the impact of the increase in Foundation Aid, took input and discussed budgetary initiatives that we would explore as federal funds were expiring. Presentations took place on the following dates (2023): May 2 - Public/Community Budget Forum, May 2 - HES PTA, May 3 - Highland Rotary, May 8 - HMS Faculty/Staff Mtg, May 9 - HHS Faculty/Staff Mtg, May 9 - HES Faculty/Staff Mtg, May 15 - HMS PTA Mtg, May 15 - HHS PTSA Mtg

Additionally, in the Winter 2022/2023, we surveyed the community using the Panorama Survey tool to identify expectations of the school district from different stakeholder groups. This information was also useful in guiding decisions related to the increase in foundation aid. Finally, on June 7, 2022, the community attended the regular BOE meeting to advocate for the inclusion of a School Resource Officer program in the district.