

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

---

Page Last Modified: 06/13/2023

**Background and Instructions**Background

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: 06/27/2023

**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	Provide and sustain additional elementary level instructional staff to ensure that class sizes are better conducive to learning.	During the Spring 2022, a community wide and staff wide survey was conducted, including all staff in all bargaining units, which solicited input as to how the additional foundation aid could be used to support post-pandemic learning. A large number of respondents indicated that sustaining or reducing small class sizes was a priority. To that end, the District decided to replace a retiring teacher which could have been cut in order to maintain smaller class sizes in the elementary school.	804455
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide and sustain supports for students who are not meeting state learning standards and provide intervention services to allow the students the opportunity to meet or exceed state standards.	During the Spring 2022, a community wide and staff wide survey was conducted, including all staff in all bargaining units, which solicited input as to how the additional foundation aid could be used to support post-pandemic learning. The respondents indicated that providing intervention services for students not meeting state learning standards. As a result, the District decided to sustain the core academic intervention specialists at the elementary school grade levels. This resulted in the District sustaining 2 academic intervention specialists (math and reading) and include these specialists in the 2023-24 general fund budget.	703878
Addressing student social-emotional health	Provide and sustain additional social-emotional support for students grades K-12. Ensure and adequate student to counselor ratio	During the Spring 2022, a community wide and staff wide survey was conducted, including all staff in all bargaining units, which solicited input as to how the additional foundation aid could be used to support post-pandemic learning. The majority of survey respondents selected social-emotional support as a top priority for	282515

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
		sustaining and utilizing the additional foundation aid. n a 1.0 FTE school social worker position which had been previously funded through the duration of the ESSA ARP funding period, in the general fund. Additionally, the District decided to add a 1.0 FTE school counselor position to further improve the social-emotional well being of our students. THis increased the total number of social-emotional support professionals by 2.0 FTE	
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 (\$)
School Safety	Provide additional school resource officer services. The District will increase school resource services so that we have 1 officer at each campus. 1 school resource officer per campus.	During the Spring 2022, a community wide and staff wide survey was conducted, including all staff in all bargaining units, which solicited input as to how the additional foundation aid could be used to support post-pandemic learning. The respondents indicated that school safety was a priority. The District responded by appropriating additional funds in the 2023-24 general fund budget to expand the school resource officer service program.	60,000

**Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)**

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

---

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

- 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)**

During the 2023-24 budget development process, the District created and published a survey to all staff and community members which requested their input on the potential use of additional foundation. The survey included all potential uses to respond to a post pandemic learning environment. This included additional social-emotional support, response to intervention services, expanded Pre-K programming, stabilization of the tax levy, reduction of class sizes etc. Accordingly, the responses were compiled and placed in rank order with the most responses being considered the highest priority. This data was then presented to the Board of Education on April 12th, 2023 as well as suggested budgetary appropriations to address the priorities identified by the survey. The Board of Education weighed in on the priorities and supported the initiatives identified by the survey. The 3 highest survey responses centered around social-emotional support, reduction of class sizes and academic intervention services.