

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

Page Last Modified: 06/23/2023

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: 06/23/2023

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	Goals in this priority area include additional CTE instructors and program support, additional International Baccalaureate programming, planning and implementation for a countywide STEAM High School anticipated to open in Fall 2025, enhancing diversity recruitment efforts, hiring and retaining the most effective staff to work with our students, and additional supports for teacher professional development and peer assistance.	Feedback was provided which asked for more investment in CTE and additional programs for students.	\$3,371,317
Reducing class sizes	Goals for this priority area include maintaining smaller class sizes.	The community provided feedback about reducing class sizes and adding more instructional staff to classrooms and school buildings.	\$4,962,402
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Goals for this priority area include the phase-in of Montessori academic programming at Delaware Primary, the phase-in of a whole-school dual language instruction model at Seymour, and funding to hire and retain the most effective staff to work with our students. Funding will also support the implementation of academic intervention boot camps for high school and middle school students, continuation of scheduling that includes 30 minutes of additional teaching time in all schools in the District, and continuation of extended day learning programs (EDLP) for high school students needing credit recovery to keep them on track for graduation.	During the 2023-24 budget process, community members provided feedback about paying teachers higher wages and getting better teachers in front of students.	\$6,894,791
Addressing student social-emotional health	Goals for this priority include providing additional mental and social-emotional health supports for both students and staff. Funding will support additional Psychologist Intern positions, Crisis Intervention Specialist positions, and contracts with community partners for mental health supports and alternative learning sites. Funding will also support SEL materials	The community voiced concern over the need to provide additional supports for social-emotional health. This included adding more classroom staff and having community partners and district staff administer social-emotional learning workshops.	\$4,616,201

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/23/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	and supplies. This also includes facilities improvements to ensure a safe learning environment.		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The goals in this priority area include hiring additional special education teachers and teaching assistants, hiring additional ENL staff, and improving compensation for teachers and teaching assistants.	During the process of acquiring feedback for the 2023-24 budget, comments were made about the need to invest in more Districtwide supports including additional teaching assistants and advocated for increasing teacher and teaching assistant pay.	\$7,159,083

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 (\$)
Charter Schools	The goal of this initiative is for the District to be in compliance to pay tuition for resident students who attend Charter Schools.	The District received a significant amount of feedback on the topic of charter school tuition. In most cases, the comments indicated that the amount paid by the District for charter school tuition should be greatly reduced or eliminated.	3,566,007
Support Ongoing Operations of the District	The goal of this initiative is to continue operations without interruption due to rising costs of materials and purchased services including student transportation and electric and gas.	Community members have voiced concern about rising inflation and the impact it will have on the District's ongoing operations.	8,888,175

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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

Page Last Modified: 06/23/2023

- 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)**

The District took note of comments and concerns voiced at Board of Education meetings during the review and planning phases of the 2023-24 budget process. In addition, the District used Balancing Act budgeting software to gather feedback and input from parents, students, staff, and community members. The tool was presented to the Superintendent's Parent and Student councils. The District mailed postcards to all District families publicizing this tool and informing them of the scheduled public hearings. Links to the tool were posted on the District's website and publicized on the District's social media feeds. The District received approximately 90 completed simulations with comments. Overarching themes included increased pay for District teachers and teaching assistants, support for more diversified student programming, additional spending on mental health and student support services, increased overall spending on instruction and to provide less funding to charter schools.