

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

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Page Last Modified: 05/30/2023

**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.

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## Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 05/30/2023

**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   | To increase graduation rates and eliminate the achievement gap. Metric is to increase budget for 4.2 FTE additional staff.  | Community stakeholders expressed concern for students at risk of not graduating.   | 459354  |
| Reducing class sizes  | Maintain class sizes rather than increasing class size due to lack of funding. Metric is to maintain budget for 20 FTE staff that would have needed to be cut without Foundation Aid increase.  | Community consistently requests that the District keep the lowest possible class sizes.  | 2187400   |
| Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas | To help students who were not meeting or at risk of not meeting state learning standards in math. Metric is to increase budget for 5 FTE staff.   | Stakeholders expressed the need to help students meet math standards.  | 546850  |
| Addressing student social-emotional health  | To provide places and staff for students to go to during times of need that are not met through the classroom. Metric is to increase budget for 5.5 FTE staff.  | Community expresses their desire to have additional Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Librarians and Social Workers.   | 601535  |
| Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness           | To provide additional services to our students with disabilities through additional staffing. District added a SIFE curriculum as an intervention service for students who come to our school with limited academic preparation and low levels of language literacy. Metric is to increase budget for 10.2 FTE staff. | Stakeholders expressed the need for additional services to students with special needs as their academic programs were adversely affected by the COVID pandemic. | 1085874   |

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 (\$) |
|---|--|--|---|
| Additional budget for electricity, gasoline, diesel, and propane. | Goal: Plan for increased costs in electricity, gasoline, diesel and propane budgets due to inflation. Metric: Increase our budget for fuel | The community is consistently asking the District to keep tax increases to the lowest possible level. The community expressed concern about inflation, | 3,541,335   |

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

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Page Last Modified: 05/30/2023

| 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 (\$) |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | costs by \$500,000. Ratio: Increase in fuel budget by 58%.  | rising fuel costs, and energy costs.  |   |
| Improve Ventilation at an Elementary Building that does not have up to date ventilation systems | Improve the health and welfare of students and staff in the Overlook Elementary School building. Metric: This amount increases the budget for this approved SED project to an amount we hope will be sufficient to complete the project. The costs for construction are in an extreme inflationary period and we will not know until bids are received. | The stakeholders are concerned with the ventilation at Overlook and consistently ask for its improvement. | 3,861,727   |

**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 Arlington Central School District initiated a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process to assist in the development of the ARP-ESSER grant applications and the budget development process. Various teams were assembled with key stakeholders including parents, community members, teachers, support staff and administrators to examine district data, solicit stakeholder feedback and to determine the best way to support our students. The Superintendent and his cabinet reported to the Board of Education the findings and recommendations of these committees.

The district communication office will regularly update the ARP plan and budget information on the District website. Public presentations during Board Meetings will be scheduled at the start and end of each school year to provide the community with updates regarding programs funded through the ARP-ESSER and additional foundation aid funds, as well as data on student progress being made as a result of the implementation of said programs.

In addition to stakeholder team involvement, Arlington administration began an outreach process that began in January of 2023 to publicly present budget information that reflected the work done by the above committees. These presentations were done twice a month through the budget development process and incorporated the wishes of the community. The most common recommendations and suggestions were based on keeping class sizes as low as possible, add social and emotional supports, reduce taxes, and to provide additional supports to our students with special needs. All recommendations were reflected in the above plan.