

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: 07/05/2023

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	N/A	N/A	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The district will continue a universal Pre-K program which began in 2022/23. The goal is to provide early intervention for students to better prepare them for their academic careers. Transportation needs for Pre-K students has significantly increased the budget.	Many parents requested that a Pre-K program be provided. With limited classroom space available, the district has contracted with local providers for the Pre-K program. Enrollment requests far exceed the number of available slots. The community continues to ask for opportunities for additional students.	400000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district is committed to providing access to mental health resources for students. Students completed the BIMAS-2 survey, which confirmed the need for more resources. Extensive additional services are planned for 2023/24, to include increasing our relationship with Contact Community Services. The district is collaborating with Onondaga County to provide Tier 2 ACCESS Help Line and adding three Tier 1 Promise Zone Specialists. Counseling services continue to be available through a local provider. Staffing has increased so that Family/School Liaisons (in addition to counselors) are assigned at each school building in the district.	The district and community have struggled to cope with multiple student suicides and tragic accidents within the last year. Parents and students have requested increased services. The district continues to strive to do everything possible to provide access to as many services as possible. The Board of Education considers mental health services a top priority.	840000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	There has been a significant increase in the needs for students with disabilities, including an increased need for support staff and therapists. The cost for students attending BOCES programs also significantly increased for 2023/24.	Parents continue to request more resources for students with disabilities..	400000

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 07/05/2023

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 (\$)
Health and safety	Costs for required repairs and renovations for aging buildings have increased significantly post-COVID.	Student health and safety are top priorities.	500,000
Contractual Obligations	Health and benefit costs continue to climb. Health insurance rates are projected to increase 7%.	The district is required by contract to provide insurance benefits to current and retired employees.	1,300,000
Contractual Obligations	Salary increases are required by contract.	Salary increases are required by contract for each bargaining unit.	728,000

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 district continuously meets with the Parent Council, Wellness Committee and DEI Committee as well as faculty, staff and students. Students were surveyed via the Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System (BIMAS-2). The public is invited to all Board of Education meetings. In addition, the district encourages the community to submit comments and ideas through our online platform, Let's Talk.

It is very clear that student social-emotional health is a top priority for all community members. The district strives to communicate availability of resources to students and families. Parents and community members expect the district to be high achieving and highly rated at all grade levels. Staffing and programmatic decisions are based on this expectation. The school district environment contributes to student success, and facility health and safety issues must be addressed.