

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

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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.

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Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

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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	Providing additional support to Middle School and High School Students who continue to show academic deficits; adding a Plato credit recovery program primarily during the summer but will try to create programming during the school year as well	The community has expressed a desire for students to have a program at the local school to help students advance their studies	5000
Reducing class sizes	DCS will be moving the expenses from ARP funding for a primary grade level teacher in the elementary building and a Teaching Assistant, this is to allow for smaller class sizes and small group instruction.	Parents and Teachers are continuously requesting smaller class sizes to help improve the learning environment	100000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Continuing Summer Learning and After School Enrichment to provide additional instructional opportunities and to ensure that all students in need of support are able to receive it	Parents and staff have expressed the need to continue Summer and Enrichment opportunities as often as possible but most recently feel its a priority due to the pandemic.	100000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Adding a psychologist and Social Worker to the general fund to support social-emotional health by involving them in Pupil related services such as Behavioral contracts, social emotional wellness plans, Group Counseling, IEP Counseling, Crisis Management, Behavior planning, risk assessment, IEP Evaluation, and individual counseling.	Parents and staff felt that students needs for social emotional supports have grown higher since the pandemic	200000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Adding a new Secondary Special Education teacher in the High School Building due to high enrollment number of students with Disabilities	Teachers expressed that the upcoming cohort of students have a higher special education need.	100000

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.

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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 (\$)
Addressing high need issues for families in the community, and adding programing for students	Adding a Connected Community School and Ready for Kindergarten program to help families and students who are in need of resources and social-emotional help. Adding additional programs back that were previously cut due to District financial issues, adding additional resources such as software to help students and staff in the classroom, adding DEI training to students and staff to help teach and promote respect amongst each other. Additional tuition needs for students with disabilities.	Parents and teachers continue to ask for additional supports and community outreach programs. Parents have asked to bring back some programs that had previously been cut	1,119,792

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 presented the planned Foundation Aid increase spending at a public hearing on May 9th, additionally District representatives presented the additional foundation aid increase and spending to the differrent municipalities during town hall meetings on 5/8, 5/10, and 5/11 of 2023. Public attendance and input was minimal at all listed events. Teachers and staff were able to provide feedback during a K-12 budget meeting where the foundation aid increase was discussed on 5/10/2023. The priorities discussed during these meetings are reflected in teh above spending plan. The biggest concern from the staff were that the District needed to add back positions to help with small group learning and smaller class sizes. The community recognizes the need for children to receive additional phycological and social emotional resources. Our special education community felt the need to accomodate students with severe needs in district programs, BOCES and private placements as these placements are increasinly harder to find.