

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

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Page Last Modified: 05/23/2023

**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: 06/06/2023

## 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 | The District has retained and added staff at the secondary level which will directly impact the graduation rate for students, including ENL, Special Education, School Counselor, Computer Science, Mathematics, Reading, and RtI Mathematics. The District is replacing older Chromebooks with new ones as all students have 1:1 devices as well as updated Smartboards in classrooms to enhance the teaching, learning and engagement methods in our instructional spaces. The District will also fund summer school for our secondary students to give them an additional opportunity to receive credit for failed coursework during the school year and provide them with the resources needed to graduate. The District is expanding the number of athletic teams in the upcoming school year to provide all students with additional opportunities to participate in activities beyond the school day and keep connected to school. The District continuously evaluates course materials to identify additional or new textbooks/workbooks to support curriculum. The District also provides teachers with time to align the curriculum accordingly. This has a direct impact on graduation rate as additional courses, resources and curricula lead to enhanced engagement with students and improved academic success. Providing professional development on a host of topics from core content, to SEL, to technology, to classroom management equips teachers with the skills and knowledge needed to close the achievement gap. | Six public meetings were held from February 2023 through April 2023. All meetings were livestreamed, recorded, and posted on the District's website for those members of the community that were unable to attend in person. Two public comment sessions were scheduled at each meeting. In April 2023 a presentation was made to the Huntington PTA Council that outlined the 2023 -2024 budget and the use of Foundation Aid to fund staffing, programs and educational materials. A detailed presentation was also provided to each Parent-Teacher Association (there are eight) with scheduled public comment sessions. | \$1,178,289   |
| Reducing class sizes  | In addition to the retention of existing staff and added staff described in the section on 'Increasing graduation rates and eliminating  | Six public meetings were held from February 2023 through April 2023. All meetings were livestreamed, recorded, and  | \$945,321   |

## Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

## Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/06/2023

|   | Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)  | Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)  | New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$) |
|---|--|---|---|
|   | the achievement gap' the District retained and added elementary teachers, ENL, Special Education, Reading, Mathematics, Computer Science, and RtI Math teachers. These additional teachers will provide a reduction in class sizes for students.   | posted on the District's website for those members of the community that were unable to attend in person. Two public comment sessions were scheduled at each meeting. In April 2023 a presentation was made to the Huntington PTA Council that outlined the 2023 -2024 budget and the use of Foundation Aid to fund staffing, programs and educational materials. A detailed presentation was also provided to each Parent-Teacher Association (there are eight) with scheduled public comment sessions.  |   |
| Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas | To further support our at-risk students, the District has retained and added software to further support students in all content areas and grade levels. Utilizing this software on our updated SMARTboards (within the classroom setting) and via Chromebooks for 24/7 student access, the District is providing our at-risk students with a wealth of resources that they would not have readily available without these opportunities provided through the general fund. The District is implementing a new diagnostic assessment system in grades 2-6 and are also retaining our current assessment system to provide us with more in-depth data as to the strengths and needs of each student. The District has reconfigured our administrative staff to include a K-12 Science Director and a K-12 Math Director, by splitting the K-12 STEM position. This will allow for additional focus on K-12 vertical alignment, NYS learning standards, rigor, curriculum writing, and analysis of programs and resources in both science and mathematics. | Six public meetings were held from February 2023 through April 2023. All meetings were livestreamed, recorded, and posted on the District's website for those members of the community that were unable to attend in person. Two public comment sessions were scheduled at each meeting. In April 2023 a presentation was made to the Huntington PTA Council that outlined the 2023 -2024 budget and the use of Foundation Aid to fund staffing, programs and educational materials. A detailed presentation was also provided to each Parent-Teacher Association (there are eight) with scheduled public comment sessions. | \$594,574   |
| Addressing student social-emotional health  | To address the social-emotional health of our students, the District is adding a school counselor at the middle level to enable more manageable caseloads, so all student needs can be addressed. We also added a student support advisor at the intermediate building to support students social-   | Six public meetings were held from February 2023 through April 2023. All meetings were livestreamed, recorded, and posted on the District's website for those members of the community that were unable to attend in person. Two public comment sessions were scheduled at each   | \$868,908   |

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## Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/06/2023

|   | Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)   | Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)  | New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$) |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | emotional health as they transition from a primary school setting to the secondary realm. The District is expanding the number of athletic teams in the upcoming school year to provide all students with additional opportunities to participate in activities beyond the school day and stay connected to school. The District has contracted with a 24/7 homework help platform to provide students with support in multiple languages in all subjects. This will reduce student and parent anxiety, as all students will be able to get the academic support they need with their assignments when convenient for them and in their home language.  | meeting. In April 2023 a presentation was made to the Huntington PTA Council that outlined the 2023 -2024 budget and the use of Foundation Aid to fund staffing, programs and educational materials. A detailed presentation was also provided to each Parent-Teacher Association (there are eight) with scheduled public comment sessions.   |   |
| Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness | All resources such as our OHM Science Kits, Journeys Reading Program, Reveal Mathematics, and the SS/ELA PNW curricula provide students with disabilities, ELL's and students experiencing homelessness with adequate resources to support their individual needs. Providing all students with access to these resources online and via print material for each student, coupled with access via Chromebooks and free Wifi, gives each student the tools and resources for success within our school and at home. Our library media specialists also provide students with both print and digital books to give all students access to resources that are appropriate to their lexile levels and interests. The District is also expanding our use of a diagnostic assessment system into grades 2-6. | Six public meetings were held from February 2023 through April 2023. All meetings were livestreamed, recorded, and posted on the District's website for those members of the community that were unable to attend in person. Two public comment sessions were scheduled at each meeting. In April 2023 a presentation was made to the Huntington PTA Council that outlined the 2023 -2024 budget and the use of Foundation Aid to fund staffing, programs and educational materials. A detailed presentation was also provided to each Parent-Teacher Association (there are eight) with scheduled public comment sessions. | \$465,000   |

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

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Page Last Modified: 06/06/2023

| 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 (\$) |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| (No Response) | (No Response)                                     | (No Response)                                    | (No Response)                                       |

**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)**

All components of the use of the increase in Foundation Aid were presented at each meeting and the public was invited to provide comments. During budget development items were added or maintained that reflected community wants and needs communicated during PTA meetings, parent workshops and Board of Education meetings. The district ensured all stakeholder input was represented in the 2023-2024 budget. The increase in Foundation Aid also enabled the district to present a budget with a .88% tax levy increase. The community voted to approve the budget, including the proposed utilization of the increase in aid, on May 16, 2023.