

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	Increase access and opportunities for students to engage in authentic learning (e.g. career pathways, internships, college-level learning). Further, updated instructional materials (such as textbooks) and Regents Review opportunities will be supported.	Community expressed favor of increased college-level learning opportunities for students. Community also showed favor for student internship and career pathway opportunities. Comment included expansion of opportunities for college credits in STEM, Business, Art, Science, etc.), as well as growth in aligned coursework that focuses on career paths and internships that do the same. There is also support for up-to-date materials and opportunities to support Regents success.	497500
Reducing class sizes	Maintain, or in some cases, lower elementary class sizes by retaining or adding staff.	The community continues to applaud low class sizes at the elementary-level, supported with an understanding that lower class sizes during these formative years builds a strong academic foundation.	22000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Enhance the District Response-to-Intervention program, and use of related data. Support extended school day opportunities for students, through staffing support, and do the same by supporting extra help. Support seniors-at-risk through enhanced staffing within the senior support program and support greater home instruction opportunities for those in need..	Our community and district believe that all students can be successful. To this end, the community supports resources that enhance a data-driven approach to supporting students. Support is also provided for greater access and opportunity for students to attend various supports like Regents Review, Extra Help, Senior Support, Home Instruction, and Extended School Day.	384000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Provide additional access and opportunities for students to engage in school-related activities that promote social and emotional well-being (e.g. new Section XI sports teams, new unified sports teams, new primary school playgrounds, mental health staff and resources, provide enhanced security features, and nurses to support student social-emotional medical needs).	Social and emotional support takes many forms. The community expressed support of mental health related supports but also SEL activities that engage students in socialization and that provide additional extracurricular opportunities. To this end, the community supports greater access to interscholastic sports, new playground equipment for primary school students to engage with each other effectively, and continued access to mental health and health services staff and resources, and enhanced security features..	2025000

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	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Support the rapidly increasing ELL population by providing dedicated support to ENL program leadership.	The community supports the dedicated leadership position of Director of World Language and ENL.	200000

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 (\$)
N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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 engages in a multi-step approach to budget development, which provides numerous opportunities for stakeholders to provide comment. For example, in addition to the required Budget Hearing, the District holds two Budget Workshops and an Informal Budget Hearing. Also, opportunity is provided at the Regular School Board Meeting where the Budget is adopted. These opportunities for public comment provide the community with a detailed administrative report on many aspects of the school budget, including Aid increases and how the increases support the educational program. To note, all of these opportunities are live streamed for community view, and those who do not attend are welcome to email comment or attend the next meeting. They are also recorded and posted on our website for public view.

Along with the aforementioned five opportunities, the District provide the Parent-Teacher Association with an opportunity to participate in its' own budget presentation; again, this is an opportunity for public comment. This can include up to nine additional opportunities (one of each of the eight school PTAs and one for the PTA Executive Council). Lastly, a budget brochure is mailed to each residential address which outlines much of the same. Again, this brochure provides information and the community has many avenues to provide comment. Analysis of public comment, as noted above, provides that Commack families prioritize 1) the social and emotional needs as well as the physical health and safety and security of their children, 2) the need for authentic learning and extracurricular opportunities, and 3) academic support and leadership. The plan above aligns with these public priorities.