

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	Our current graduation rate is at 98%. To maintain and continue our goal of improving our graduation rate and eliminating the achievement gap our district provides the ability for APEX credit recovery as well as programs such as Operation Graduation and CTAEP which are geared toward students who learn better in a smaller setting.	Our Public Relations Specialist regularly posts stories of interest on our website and monitors feedback through FB as well. We have parent & community participation on our Committee for Curriculum Study as well.	350000
Reducing class sizes	At our five elementary buildings, in an effort to keep smaller class sizes, the District has added 3 additional sections. We added an extra section of Kindergarten at one of our elementary buildings to keep all K class sizes below 20 students. The balance of grade levels 1-5 are all at 25 or below, averaging 19-23 per section. In our middle school, we reimplemented team teaching at our grade 6 level and added an additional 2.0 FTE to keep class sizes lower.	We received feedback from parents at the elementary level about concern of lower class sizes as well as BOE concern about the teaming approach which used to exist before aid cuts in 2008 and 2009.	629517
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The District monitors student progress throughout the year. Course failure reports and assessment reports are provided to BOE. The District has increased review sessions for students and we have extended the Renaissance STAR Assessment tool to the K-8 level and will continue to 2023-2024. The District will continue the role of the MTSS/ELA Coordinator which was formerly funded by federal funds.	Regular reports of assessments and quarterly course failure information is reported at our public BOE meetings.	258000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District maintains Rensselaer Count Mental Health Clinics at both our high school and middle school. Social workers and guidance counselors work to identify students/families that may need support. We also employ full-time SRO's at the high school and middle school that provide classroom lessons regarding social media safety and health.	Our social workers and counselors assess student needs and meet with the Mental Health Clinicians to identify those in need. We also utilize restorative practices.	350000

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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	The EGCSd has a growing population of ELL students. We have increased ELL staffing as we started an additional ELL cluster school in 22/23. We intend to expand the ELL grade level at our second elementary cluster school in 23/24. We have also appointed an ELL chairperson to ensure consistency throughout the District. The District has over 600 students with disabilities. In 22/23 we appointed a CSE chairperson and plan to appoint an additional CSE chair in 23/24. They will assist in leading CSE meetings (one Grade K-6 and the other Grade 7-12). The District will also reinstate a Communications Skills class at one of our elementary buildings and we will be hiring a teacher and TA.	There are regular meetings with ELL and Sped parents as required by law.	158000

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 (\$)
Student support	We plan to expand our universal pre-k program in 23/24 to assist our youngest learners in school readiness	BOE and community support for UPK	185,000
Goal: 23/24 budget that maintains all current programs, & adds programs at little tax levy impact	BOE goal was to provide a budget that maintained all current programs and implemented new programs as well as be cognizant of the effect on tax payers.	We began speaking about our 2023-2024 in December 2022 and the goals of the BOE. Reports on budget development and processes took place at each BOE meeting in January and February. Budget workshops took place on March 8 and March 22, 2023. The BOE adopted the budget on April 23 at a small .5% tax levy increase. We presented our proposed budget to all employee groups, PTOs and the Town of East Greenbush.	2,176,809

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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)**

Our Public Relations Specialist routinely posts stories of interest on our website as well as monitors feedback on our facebook page. Our budget process includes outreach to all stakeholders including, administrators, staff and community. Our BOE meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity for public comment twice during each meeting. All public comments are responded to either privately or publicly at a following meeting as warranted.