

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: 05/17/2023

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	Eliminating the achievement gap. The District plans to use a portion of the 2023/24 Foundation Aid increase to fund the purchase of 2000 iPads to be directly distributed to students to help support their academic recovery and eliminating the achievement gap. Students will be assigned these devices to support their academic school day, as well as any assigned AIS, drop-in academic support periods, tutoring, or after-school extra help.	Community members did not provide any feedback	658,000
Reducing class sizes	Reducing class size is of critical importance to the District to provide the needed supports to help ensure student success. The District has been experiencing incremental enrollment increases each year, and a recent demographic study supports that the trend will continue for the foreseeable future. After careful review of staffing and projected needs throughout the District, it is determined that an appropriate utilization of this Foundation Aid increase would be the additional of 6.1 FTEs on the elementary level, and 2.3 FTEs on the secondary level in an effort to reduce overall class size.	Community members did not provide any feedback	795,646
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Addressing student social-emotional health	Supporting student social and emotional health is an urgent matter and after a careful review with staff professionals the District felt it was in the best interest of students to add the following: One social worker at the elementary level, so that each school would have their own dedicated staff member. A total of 1.6 FTE (0.4 FTE at each secondary school) of Deans to have another trusted adult in each secondary	Community members did not provide any feedback	662,302

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 05/17/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	building to provide emotional support, and 2.1 FTEs of psychologists to have ample professionals on hand for student social, emotional, and mental health.		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	With student enrollment incrementally rising, we are also experiencing an increase in needs for our students with disabilities. After careful consideration it was felt an appropriate use for some of the increased Foundation aid was to provide an additional 0.75 FTE of Speech Pathologist support for those students in need with IEP mandated services.	Community members did not provide any feedback	84,052

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 (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseUse of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 05/17/2023

- 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)**

A detailed presentation was made to the public during the District's Board of Education meeting of March 29, 2023 outlining the proposed utilization of increased Foundation Aid funding, as described in section one above. The District encouraged feedback and public comment from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders as part of the overall budget development process. This presentation, and all supporting budget materials were posted to the District's website. The District did receive feedback from both the teacher's and administrator's unions. The Great Neck Teachers Association provided feedback stating it "supports and otherwise has no objection to the manner in which the Great Neck Public Schools has proposed to distribute the increased foundation aid." The Association of Supervisors and Administrators of the Great Neck Educational Staff reported that, "we have reviewed the Foundation Aid plan and support it. The positions are certainly needed to foster the positive mental health of our students, as well as reducing our class sizes during a period on increasing enrollment." Although, there was no specific feedback or commentary from any parents or community members, the public did support a successful passage of the 2023/24 budget on May 16th by an overwhelming margin, demonstrating support for our spending plan. In total, the District has earmarked approximately \$2.2M for the various increases detailed in section one.