

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

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**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

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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	Increasing support provided to our students, specifically in the area of Math and ELA. Steps included the addition of 1.0 Math AIS and 1.0 ELA AIS teachers, four 1.0 FTE teacher assistants to better address meeting the specific achievement gaps of our students as identified by teacher assessment, progress monitoring, and data analysis.	These initiatives are reflective of our Board of Education goals and district priorities as discussed and presented at our monthly BOE meetings and PTO meetings. In addition, the WHUFSD Community overwhelmingly indicated their support of these initiatives by supporting/passing the 2023-24 School Budget.	400,000
Reducing class sizes	Added a second section of Pre-K to ensure all students in the district have access to full-day PreK	Last year, the district had more children than spots for our one section of UPK. This resulted in a PreK admission lottery and 14 children being unable to access the district's UPK program in 22-23.	100,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Invested in a new, K-6 reading series to support student progression in meeting NYS learning standards in ELA as well as other subjects. District also invested in upgrading computers/technology with addition of equipment for technology, art, computer lab, and distance learning spaces	These initiatives are reflective of our Board of Education goals and district priorities as discussed and presented at our monthly BOE meetings and PTO meetings. In addition, the WHUFSD Community overwhelmingly indicated their support of these initiatives by supporting/passing the 2023-24 School Budget.	250,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Added a 1.0 FTE School Resource Officer and a 1.0 Mental Health Counselor	These initiatives are reflective of our Board of Education goals and district priorities as discussed and presented at our monthly BOE meetings and PTO meetings. In addition, the WHUFSD Community overwhelmingly indicated their support of these initiatives by supporting/passing the 2023-24 School Budget.	120000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Purchased two additional buses, hired two additional drivers and monitors for the primary purpose of addressing the needs of our students with disabilities and students experiencing homelessness.	These initiatives are reflective of our Board of Education goals and district priorities as discussed and presented at our monthly BOE meetings and PTO meetings. In addition, the WHUFSD Community overwhelmingly indicated their support of these initiatives by supporting/passing the 2023-24 School Budget.	300,000

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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.)**

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 used combination of conversations with district staff through department, faculty, and grade level meetings and informational sessions provided at monthly PTO and Board of Education meetings to identify initiatives based on recommendations and/or suggestions. This information was also made available to our community through information posted on our website, social media platforms, and district-wide community newsletter and presented to faculty and staff in sessions designed for them to offer feedback , comment, and suggestions. Based on the response of all stake holders, including parents, teachers, and other stakeholders provided at the sessions and meetings mentioned above, it was clear that the plan was reflective of the needs, suggestions, and recommendations provided by stakeholder groups in the school community. In addition, the WHUFSD Community overwhelmingly indicated their support of these initiatives by supporting/passing the 2023-24 School Budget.