

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	Ensure that elementary class sizes have no more than 25 students.	Stakeholders have expressed a desire for class sizes to be reduced. These funds will ensure that because of rising enrollements that class sizes do not increase and that we maintain elementary class sizes of less than 25	124,016
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	N/A	N/A	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	Providing counseling services in-District to ensure that all families have access to the mental health services that they need.	Staff has shared that there are a growing number of mental health needs within our school community	235,115
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Develop programs to service more SWD in Maryvale rather than relying on BOCES or alternate placements.	Over the past few years stakeholders have commented on the need to increase staffing for the special education department as well as creating internal programs to support our students that may be struggling in alternate placements.	73,843

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 (\$)
Maintain and expand current programming	Maintain the expansion of LOTE, Music Department and Project Lead the Way. For the upcoming school year we will be expanding our High School Honors Program with the expansion of the ELA department	The expansion of LOTE was something that has come up over the past few years and had parental support for the 22-23 school year. Stakeholder feedback has also emphasized the need to offer additional honors classes to further	147,712

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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 (\$)
		enrich the academic needs of students	
Technology Maintenance	Ensure that student devices are regularly updated and repaired.	Both school staff and parents shared the need to ensure that student devices are maintained and updated as needed to ensure that students are able to meet the technological demands of classes	65,898
Maintain a Tax Compliant Budget	Ensure that the budget that we are presenting to the community to vote on is cap compliant despite the many increased costs based on the current economy.	This came up during public comment sessions during the budget process. Community members voiced concerns over tax liabilities.	3,497,725

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)**

Board of Education meetings included public comment sessions and in several instances community members have discussed specific needs and concerns. The most common need/concern that has been shared during public comment sessions is that the community has concerns about tax liabilities. Hence, one of our priorities with these funds is to ensure that they are utilized to maintain a tax compliant budget despite the increase in costs based on the current economic climate.

We also implemented a Thought Exchange with students, families, staff, and community partners as well as Needs Assessments which included stakeholder focus groups. Common themes that emerged from these included:

- Considering and addressing the mental health needs of students - We have increased student support staff with stimulus funds; we are adding a Family Support Center this year to add additional supports; We also added Deans of Students at the Intermediate and Middle School
- Reducing class size - Increasing grade 6 staffing and special education staffing to address increased cohort sizes
- Offering advanced classes so that students have a better chance at being successful in college
- Preparing Students for Life Outside of School - This is not a focus of funds, but something that will be taken into account when reviewing current curriculum
- Wellness - This is a focus of our District Strategic Plan and funds from the Healthy Schools Grant is being used to support this work