

**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	Provide additional assistance to students who may be at risk for graduating. Assign Teachers and teacher assistants to eliminate the achievement gap. Work directly with students on study skills to create good study habits	Adding more STEAM opportunities including Art.	\$50,000
Reducing class sizes	Hiring additional teacher assistants to reduce class size for some of our larger classes	Create active hands on program for kids. Incorporating more physical activity while learning and getting kids involved in meal prep, learning about nutrition	\$25,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Adding more options for middle school and upper elementary students during a 3-5 afterschool program..	Create Math labs for all students that are struggling. Provide a hands on Summer school experience for all students both academic as well as enrichment activities. More hands on activities. Basic classes like Woodshop and Home Economics and Consumer Math. Engaging Summer school and Field trips. Fully Funded Library Program. More Athletics.	\$100,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Increase staff support to address increased student social-emotional health. Focus on student character ed and teacher Mentors for students 7-12.	Assign an adult teacher mentor to all students. Provide a list of mental health providers/support groups in our area. Expansion of extra curricular programs outdoor clubs field trips intramural sports and other events.	\$80,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Ensure Highly qualified teachers services to all SWD's Support trauma sensitive team training to all instructional staff.	Provide free meals to students. Provide summer camps and meals for students. Have the homeless liaison work closer with families to ensure they are aware of all resources available.	\$75,000

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.

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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 (\$)
(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)**

Hermon DeKalb Central School solicited feedback through both a public hearing at the Board of Education meetings and through two electronic surveys one in March and one in June 2023. Paper copies of the survey were made available. There are no additional comments other than what was mentioned above. There were 29 responses in total.

The priority summary from the responses was Summer and Afterschool Programs in addition to learning support for struggling students.

The request for more engagement activities for Highschool students to ensure all grade levels are exposed to enrichment activities.

Social Emotional support continues to be an area where we have been placing our resources over the last several years and will continue to be an area of enhancement with these additional funds. STEM was also emphasized by several parents. Reducing class size was the lowest priority due to our already small class sizes. Feedback was solicited and comments were reviewed for each priority area.