

## 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.

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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	New staffing, Special Education, To ensure that the district can meet the needs of its special education population. New staffing, High School, School Counselor, To decrease the student:school counselor ratio so that school counselors can provide more support to the high school student population. Total high school counselors will increase to four (4) from three (3). New elementary math curriculum, To ensure that the district is providing the most effective and current math curriculum for its elementary age students. HS Credit Recovery Summer Program. To give the opportunity to students who passed their regents but failed the related class another chance to earn course credit.	Per the community survey, there were requests for more academic support and services, requests for academic support and special education support, and requests for additional resources for college preparation and assistance for students through the counseling process.	224685
Reducing class sizes	N/A	N/A	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	New staffing, AIS Reading Teacher. To ensure that the district can meet state mandated AIS support for students in grades 3-5 due to growth in student population who require AIS. New staffing, Special Education. To ensure that the district can meet the needs of its special education population. New stipends, High impact tutoring, MS. To provide extra support in reading and math for MS students.	Per the community survey, there were requests for various academic supports, special education support, tutoring, and summer programs.	177685
Addressing student social-emotional health	Effective School Solutions (ESS) in-house therapeutic support program, to provide in-house therapeutic support program to students that would other require placements at other schools as well as mental wellness services for students and training for staff. New staffing, High School, School Counselor, To decrease the student:school counselor ratio so that school counselors can provide more support to the high school student	Mental wellness, social emotional resources and supports for students was one of the most frequently mentioned items in the community survey.	162000

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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 (\$)
	population. Total high school counselors will increase to four (4) from three (3). Mental wellness presentations, to provide MS and HS students with presentations from outside speakers to support mental wellness initiatives.		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	See line #1 and line #3	See line #1 and line #3	0

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 (\$)
Transfer to capital fund	To provide a safer way for students who arrive to the MS/HS campus on foot or bike to enter campus. As Rye Neck is a non-bussing district, many students come to school via foot or bike. This transfer will also provide greater safety and security at the high school entrance.	Improvements to buildings, infrastructure and fields was the most mentioned item in the community survey. Safety and security measures was also a frequently mentioned item.	350,000

**Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)**

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Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

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- 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)**

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, Rye Neck UFSD sought public input on the development of a plan for the use of the increase in Foundation Aid (which was greater than 10% of the 2022-23 school year) for the district for the 2023-24 school year. Rye Neck previously sought input from parents, teachers and other stakeholders both in May 2021 and December 2022 about the uses of the Foundation Aid increases via Google Surveys.

Related to the 2023-24 Foundation Aid increase, at the October 6, 2022 Planning Session of the Rye Neck Board of Education, district administrators gave a presentation (which was also made available on the district website) which discussed the anticipated 2023-24 increase in Foundation Aid funding. In the presentation, it was noted that the district was, again, seeking community feedback about usage of this increase via a survey. A four-question survey, modeled after a survey prepared by NYSED, was emailed to the community and staff on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 via Google Forms. In addition to three demographic questions, the fourth and final survey question asked respondents, "As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year, how should Rye Neck use the estimated increase in Foundation Aid?" Seventy (70) responses were received (67 to the survey in English, 3 to the survey in Spanish). Uses of the increase in Foundation Aid funding was also discussed in the bi-monthly district administrator meetings as well as at the 2023-24 public budget discussions on February 15, March 15, April 19 and May 3, 2023. In consideration of the responses received via the survey in addition to internal discussions with administrators, teachers, and other staff and feedback received during meetings, Rye Neck developed the 2023-24 Foundation Aid Spending Plan.