

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	The addition of an elementary and secondary assistant principal, six AIS teachers, and one ELA teacher allows for increased focus on the academic needs of students. These educators will assist with the targeted areas in need of improvement identified through teachers, families, and students themselves, due to the pandemic. The Academic Intervention Service teachers will address both ELA and math deficits at the elementary level and literacy needs at the high school level.	There were a large number of community and family members that advocated for the addition of supports at the administrative level to assist with the ability to work on student social, emotional, and academic needs. The topic of AIS continually came up as a way to support struggling students through tier two intervention and instruction.	930000
Reducing class sizes	-	-	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	-	-	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	The addition of school resource officers, school safety monitors, community schools coordinators, and an elementary school counselor will foster the social and emotional health of students. Many have returned to school from the pandemic with significant mental health concerns, as well as concerns for their safety. The safety teams put into place at each of the buildings allows for additional security and supports for these fragile students and staff. Community Schools Coordinators are at each building facilitating the school to home connection and assisting with community resources and supports to connect families to mental health and basic food/living insecurities.	There were a large number of community and family members that advocated for additional mental health and security measures in each of the school buildings. Through the variety of individuals and opportunities they can provide, the community reinforced the favorable response utilizing the funds in this way.	1185000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Through the increased enrollment of ELLs in the district, there was a need to add an English as a New Language teacher to address the academic needs of this population. This teacher will assist with	The community is aware of the increase in population. It has largely been in part the advocacy of the educators to add this position. Many times, families do not know what exactly a student needs, other than	90000

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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 (\$)
	language acquisition and transitions in the academic environment. In addition, they will foster positive communication and connections with families to make them welcomed into the school community, culture, and climate. All of this is integral in the success of the ELL learner.	more one to one time and support in learning.	

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 (\$)
Salaries and Benefits	The district will also be using the additional Foundation Aid to cover contractual salary increases and benefits for current employees.	The community is aware of the increase in contractual obligations. These increases are discussed in contract negotiations and budget meetings.	4,162,598

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)

Public comment was solicited through a variety of modes. The superintendent sent the community weekly emails and addressed the topic of budget workshops where community input/ideas were welcomed through email responses. Three budget workshops were open to the public to listen to the presentation with ideas being considered along with an opportunity for public comment. In addition, all presentations were posted to the website for public viewing. The information was presented and ideas were also welcomed through participation at PTA Council meetings, local community meetings, and building level meetings. Through the series of workshops, changes with presented explanations were made to the proposed use of funds.