

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.

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	Funds will be used to maintain all current programs and services and support teaching and learning, including:	Feedback from the Curriculum Committee, comprised of Administrators, Board Members, Parents, Teachers, and Community Members as well as Faculty, PTA and Community Groups were supportive of the use of additional Foundation Aid to support these initiatives.	6,000,000
Reducing class sizes	Additional State Aid funds will allow for an additional 16.1 FTEs to reduce class size, including the following tenure areas: Music, Art, English as a Second Language, Physical Education; Special Education, Elementary Education and Social Studies. The 16.1 FTE's also includes 3.5 FTE's from a sunseting Stimulus Grant.	Feedback from the Curriculum Committee, comprised of Administrators, Board Members, Parents, Teachers, and Community Members as well as Faculty, PTA and Community Groups were supportive of the use of additional Foundation Aid to support these initiatives.	1,932,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Funds will be used to increase Academic Intervention Services (RTI) and to continue the transition to full-time teaching assistants to provide consistency in academic support. Additional funds for Summer School, online academic support software, additional Special Education classes with support services (see above).	Feedback from the Curriculum Committee, comprised of Administrators, Board Members, Parents, Teachers, and Community Members as well as Faculty, PTA and Community Groups were supportive of the use of additional Foundation Aid to support these initiatives.	250,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The budget includes funding for Northwell Health Services, Mental Health First Aid for adults and youth, updated evaluations to assess students' emotional well-being, purchase of the RULER program for social emotional awareness and regulation, additional Assistant Principal at the Middle School, addition of Intramurals for grades 4, 5, and 6 for physical activity and social opportunities,	Feedback from the Curriculum Committee, comprised of Administrators, Board Members, Parents, Teachers, and Community Members as well as Faculty, PTA and Community Groups were supportive of the use of additional Foundation Aid to support these initiatives.	250,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	As noted above, the District plans to use additional State Aid to open two additional Bilingual classes - grades 1 and 2; purchase of additional textbooks and workbooks in Spanish, hiring of Bilingual Assistant Principal at the Middle School.	Feedback from the Curriculum Committee, comprised of Administrators, Board Members, Parents, Teachers, and Community Members as well as Faculty, PTA and Community Groups were supportive of the use of additional	743,531

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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 (\$)
	Budget includes two additional In-District Special Education classes with related services and professional support as well as funding for additional BOCES and out of district placements with related services. Funds will be used throughout the year to support students with disabilities with additional technology. Altice wireless access will support students who do not have access to wireless technology for in-home use.	Foundation Aid to support these initiatives.	

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)

Curriculum enhancements were presented to the Curriculum Committee at its monthly meetings from September 2022 through Budget Adoption in April 2023. Once the District was informed of the additional aid in January 2023, the Committee, comprised of Administrators, Board Members, Parents, Teachers, and Community Members prioritized its budget enhancements to best meet the goals of the Community and Board and meet the educational and emotional support needs of its students. Budget enhancements were also discussed at Safety Committee Meetings, Facilities Committee Meetings, and Wellness Committee Meetings, which included a variety of stakeholders, including students. Representatives from the Business Office and Personnel Office also attended all meetings. To ensure all stakeholder groups were included in the process, the Budget, including additional use of Foundation Aid, was presented to Faculty and Staff, PTA groups, and Community Groups, including Hicksville's Civic Associations.