

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	Bellmore-Merrick CHSD will continue to ensure that our students have multiple pathways to graduation. We are committed to recognizing the needs of our students and helping all students succeed no matter what their academic path. Bellmore-Merrick CHSD's continued focus is to build upon the theme of pathways, path and purpose by further developing the district's ability to create individual academic avenues for each student. Funds will be used to support the continuation of Chromebook devices to all 5,200 student to provide equitable technology resources for all. To support the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, funds will also be used to support necessary district-wide wireless access point upgrades and other related network infrastructure upgrades. As the use of digital curriculum resources and online databases continues to rise in 21st Century learning, it is vital to ensure that all students have equitable access. The increase in funding will provide enhanced professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to utilize digital instructional platforms to support student learning (i.e. Google Classroom, Formative, Albert i.o, IXL, Demos, Test Wizard, Near Pod) and the purchase of online academic programs that students can utilize while in school and at home. Funds will also be used to continue supporting additional opportunities for students to obtain after-school academic assistance, homework support, academic intervention services and additional review sessions prior to end-course examinations. Furthermore, funds will support increased opportunities for students to attend the District's summer education program (Bridge Program, Regional Summer School).	Community did not voice any concerns over proposed plan	1500000

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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 (\$)
Reducing class sizes	As is the ongoing practice, the district closely monitors enrollment and community trends on a regular basis to maintain adequate class sizes. When analyzing enrollment figures, the district proactively reviews class sizes and increases class sections as necessary. Funds will be used to support any additional class sections across the district to reduce class sizes as necessary, and will allow class sizes to remain at or below contractual limitations.	Community did not voice any concerns over proposed plan	160000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Fund will support the purchase of digital assessment platforms to monitor student data and identify at risk students and to maintain staffing and resources for academic support programs district-wide. Additional funding will be allocated to enhance the teaching faculty's ability to differentiate instruction to help further meet the needs of at risk students. Additionally, funds will help continue the District's initiative to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings for students and expand upon our in-house offerings (Cosmetology, Broadcasting, Culinary, Electrical Training). The increase in CTE offerings will allow additional students to participate and earn credits towards graduation while also giving them a pathway to a potential future vocational career.	Community did not voice any concerns over proposed plan	1937500
Addressing student social-emotional health	Addressing student social-emotional health is at always the forefront of Bellmore-Merrick CHSD's decision making. Funds will be used to support the District's continued partnership with Northwell Health to enhance the ability to work with students under trauma. Funds will also be allocated to support the continuation of extended hours to our District's Wellness Centers. Increased service learning opportunities will be offered as well as the creation of a Middle School Advisory. The primary goal of the Middle School Advisory is to further improve upon Social Emotional Learning	Community did not voice any concerns over proposed plan. The District receive feedback to utilize the extended wellness center hours for student/family assistance in college preparation which has been implemented.	765000

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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 (\$)
	(SEL). This program will ensure that every student has a trusted adult they can connect with. It will focus on discussions in small group settings to help educate students on leadership skills, respect, inclusion and belong and much more. All of which, will help improve upon social-emotional health.		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Bellmore-Merrick CHSD is committed to identifying and serving English Language Learners (ELLs). Instructional support staff will continue implementing strategies to address ELL students' academic and language needs. Funds will be used to create the District's new ENL Center at John F. Kennedy High School. The space will be outfitted to create enhanced opportunities for community, coursework will be developed with enhancements and faculty will be provided with targeted professional development opportunities to further develop the skills needed to address the needs of this population. Students with disabilities (SWD) are provided with all provisions of Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that align with the goals of the committee on special education. SWD are provided with programming that meets individual student needs as per their individual education plan. Funds will be used to support current staffing and programs in place as well as the addition of a District-Wide Chairperson of Special Education and Pupil Support Services. This position will provide enhanced support to the coordination and supervision of transition services for SWD, chair initial 504 meetings and provide staff development regarding behavioral, emotional and environmental support for students and families. During the past few years, the district has experienced a dramatic shift in the needs of students, specifically within the SWD populations. Upon identification and analysis of these sub-groups and	Community did not voice any concerns over proposed plan	4051818

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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 (\$)
	related caseload, funds will be used to address the specific student needs and additional staffing needs and related services, accordingly. The District's McKinney Vento Liaison ensures that all students experiencing homelessness are identified and provided with necessary supports pursuant to state guidelines.		

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)

Community input was solicited throughout the 2023-2024 budget development process during the three budget meetings conducted on February 15, 2023 (Budget Committee Meeting), April 3, 2023 (Public Budget Meeting) and May 3, 2023 (Public Budget Hearing), all of which included public presentations and a public comment period in which community input is encouraged.

Community input is also being solicited by encouraging sending comments to the email address below:

mconi@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business

We are pleased to report that the District did not receive any concerns over the proposed foundation aid plan to address student needs.

This is evidenced through the community's support of the District's 2023-2024 successful budget.