

**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	Investment in professional development targeting newly acquired math and literacy programs. Curriculum development for all core content areas to be fully aligned with updated standards. Further development of district wide MTSS program to assist in remediation efforts. Continued work with the Guidance department on monitoring student progress on formative assessments and report card grades. Onboarding of Seal of Civic Readiness and Seal of Bi-Literacy and all necessary professional development/training required for staff. This also resulted in .40 FTE at the secondary level.	The community has voiced concern over career and college readiness.	1842978
Reducing class sizes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	We will continue to support a position at Scotchtown Avenue Elementary School of a school Guidance Counselor to help support our youngest students and their families. School counselors help foster foundational skills, support students through challenging situations, and serve their social and emotional needs. We will continue to support a position of School Psychologist that will provide academic, social and behavioral support to students and families throughout the district, including out-of-district placements and the district's Pre-K program. This will be tracked by monitoring teacher referrals to administration for behavioral interventions and general classroom assistance. This will also be monitored by the District's efforts to keep students in the least restrictive environment. Students who are dysregulated have a hard time attending to their academics. The support of a counselor will help deepen their focus on their studies, even at the youngest level.	The community has voiced concern over student academic performance and behavioral issues as they continue to work on being successful in the in-person, collaborative school environment. The continual support of these positions will help to focus on student needs and support their academic and behavioral success.	1260000

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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 (\$)
	These are their most formative years.		
Addressing student social-emotional health	Continue to support a new position at Scotchtown Avenue Elementary School of a school Guidance Counselor to help support our youngest students and their families. School counselors help foster foundational skills, support students through challenging situations, and serve their social and emotional needs. Continue to support a new position of School Psychologist that will provide academic, social and behavioral support to students and families throughout the district, including out-of-district placements and the district's Pre-K program. This will be tracked by monitoring teacher referrals to administration for behavioral interventions and general classroom assistance. This will also be monitored by the District's efforts to keep students in the least restrictive environment. The District is also implementing the Choose Love SEL program in an effort to create a K-12 standardized approach to addressing student needs.	The community continues to advocate for additional student academic performance support in core academic subject areas. The ongoing support for staffing in this area will allow the district to respond accordingly and more deeply support student needs.	898000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Working with the local BOCES to service our English Language Learner students in order to help them acclimate to the community and school culture, we send our students to a Newcomer Program held at the local BOCES. Our special education staff is continuing to be trained on the Orton Gillingham and Wilson reading programs to enhance remediation efforts for our special education students. The district added two nursing staff members to address the increasing needs of our special education students.	The community has increasing concerns over student health needs. More specifically with students with disabilities and their IEP mandated health supports. The addition of health care staff will allow us to adequately and appropriately manage these needs.	1141000

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 (\$)
N/A	N/A	N/A	(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)**

Each year, during the budget process, the District Administration meets with all stakeholder groups, including principals, other administrators, teacher leadership and service organizations such as the PTO's or Booster Clubs. During these meetings, the Superintendent presents the proposed budget and the highlights for that year. Feedback is welcome during these presentations and is often reflected in the final budget presentation to the Board of Education for approval. Also, at the annual budget hearing held each year before the budget vote, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business present the final version of the budget to the community before Board approval. The hearing is a mechanism for the administration to take feedback, incorporating that into the final presentation to the Board of Education prior to adoption. Common recommendations included an increase in counseling staff which is included in this approved budget.