

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	Reduce class sizes, especially for grades K-6 and 9-10, below the contractual number	Community and staff identified smaller class sizes to address academic loss and behavioral need, specifically at the elementary levels and grades 9 and 10 in the areas of English and Social Studies.	495,854
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Goals are: Implement the use of ELA and Math cut scores to identify student need. Record interventions and progress monitoring. Communicate the responsibilities of various stakeholders for Tiers 1, 2, and 3. Support teachers using quantitative data and qualitative data to determine student need. Support teachers and MTSS providers to utilize interventions specific to student need. Support teachers and MTSS providers in the development and use of establishing systems for documenting interventions. Formalize all interventions to ensure that they are progress monitored with associated assessments. Implement new Data Days and MTSS day formats.	Community and staff identified methods to address academic loss. The district created 4 MTSS positions to review data, provide professional learning opportunities, and work directly with other classroom teachers to identify students and implement specific strategies in classroom lesson plans.	509,787
Addressing student social-emotional health	Assign at least 2 counselors in each building; Staff at least 1 RN and 1 LPN in each building; Add a social worker at the middle school to keep the ratio of staff vs student more equitable.	Community, staff and building administrators identified needs to address SEL and behavioral issues, requesting more related service professionals such as counselors, social worker, and nurses. The district also invested in a software program (Panorama) to survey student's SEL. In addition, the district is part of a BOCES consortium exploring how a community schools program could be implemented.	439,967
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Create additional 12:1:1 program due to increased enrollment. Meet IEP requirements for students requiring ICT support in their home school.	Staff and building administrators identified a need to address our student with disabilities population by adding a self-contained 12:1:1 teacher due to increased enrollment and two ICT teachers to comply	300,727

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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 (\$)
		with IEPS as the district continues to research and evaluate the ICT model. In addition, the district budgeted for an Instructional Specialist through BOCES.	

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 (\$)
Safety & Security	Fund a portion of the camera replacement plan and increase security within all six school buildings as well as afterschool events to mitigate student behavioral issues.	Safety and Security were a priority based on the community and staff survey using ThoughtExchange and via meetings during faculty meetings and budget presentations.	1,051,321
Operational Needs	Staff at least two custodians at each building and upgrade years-old cleaning equipment.	Addition of a district-wide cleaner to address labor shortage and replacement of cleaning equipment due to years of reductions in the O&M budget.	130,477
Buses	Maintain the current bus replacement plan based on a cash basis of payment.	During the many budget presentations questions and concerns arose on the implementation of the zero-emission buses and its impact on the fleet and long range financial planning.	379,889
Communications	Communication more frequently to all stakeholders, utilizing a platform to implement better surveys and analysis.	The voter exit poll survey and the budget focus group directly inform how best to communicate with district stakeholders. This has resulted in additional communication support for our Director of Communications by adding 2 days of BOCES support and the use of ThoughtExchange to engage all stakeholders regarding important school related topics .	72,110
Technology upgrades	Equip 1 laptop per student in grades K-12 plus spares, as well as 24/7 network monitoring for cyber attacks.	Academic learning was the number one priority identified in the community survey. Laptops for each student are critical as instruction becomes less pen	710,935

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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 (\$)
		and paper. Further, they are necessary in the event of implementing remote learning. Investment in reducing the risk of cyber attacks. Lastly, the SSIP funds are done as of June 30, 2023.	
Legal Services	(No Response)	Attorney fees have increased significantly due to student and personnel issues.	23,200
Unallocated Insurance	(No Response)	Insurance premiums have increased over 10% due in large part to increased property values.	12,177
CRSE	(No Response)	Maintain the BOCES service for DEI services and professional learning for staff.	28,175
Preschool Specials	Include specials (gym, art, music) for preschool students.	Need was identified by administration and preschool teachers.	55,680
Teacher Absences	(No Response)	Due to the labor shortage, substitute's are nearly impossible to get. The teacher contract provides a provision they receive additional compensation when they cover a class and lose planning time. This budget line item has increased over 4x the original budget.	110,925
Charter School Increase	(No Response)	District is seeing an increase in charter school students.	67,246
MS Fitness Center	Provide a quality PE program emphasizing the benefits of good health as part of the curriculum.	To implement stage 1 of upgrading the MS fitness center to improve PE education and curriculum and to help with student behavioral issues.	15,000
Transfer to School Lunch	Continue to provide healthy school meals.	To offset the anticipated loss in the school lunch program now that the free meals for all students is no longer in effect.	100,000
Transfer to Capital	Initiate a capital outlay plan to address increasing needs of building infrastructure improvements.	The Board of Education continually comments on the need for infrastructure building repairs identified during their walkthroughs. Years of cuts to the O&M budget was a direct result of reductions in Foundation Aid.	100,000

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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)**

Our students, families, staff and community members clearly expressed their priorities to us through a number of input opportunities: survey using ThoughtExchange; leadership meetings with students, faculty, Budget Focus Group, Board of Education, and building planning teams; districtwide resident newsletters; website; regular superintendent email updates; and community budget presentations.

The priorities identified by all stakeholders were:

- Academic learning with a strategic focus in many areas, including class sizes and maintaining teachers to keep overall section numbers lower than our threshold, special education needs, academic interventions, and continuation of our efforts to support student learning post pandemic.
- Mental health and student support services, increasing our counseling, social worker, and health office staff.
- Safety and security with an increase in personnel, camera replacement plan and enhanced visitor management system
- Operational needs to address the ongoing building repairs, equipment needs, and personnel support required for normal functions