

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	NA	NA	0
Reducing class sizes	The increase in Foundation Aid will help support the addition of 1.0 FTE fourth grade teacher at Franklin Avenue Elementary School. The current third grade class has 3 sections and the current 4th grade has 2 sections. When the 3rd grade moves up in September and additional 4th grade teacher will be needed to keep class sizes consistent.	Several stakeholder groups, including Franklin Avenue parents, principals, BOE, and District Administration fully support the additional FTE. All agree that reduced class sizes promotes better learning and greater interaction between teachers and individual students.	100000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The increase in Foundation Aid will help support the addition of 1.0 FTE speech pathologist at the Elementary School level. There is an increase in need for students to receive support for speech. This FTE will support the need in all three elementary schools.	All stakeholder groups, including parents, principals, BOE, and District Administration fully support the additional FTE. All agree that it is a priority to add the additional services to the students who need it.	100000
Addressing student social-emotional health	NA	NA	0
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The increase in Foundation Aid will help support the addition of a 1.0 FTE Speech Pathologist for Evans Park Elementary School. The District has seen an increase in the number of ENL students moving into the District. An additional ENL Teacher will support these students.	All stakeholder groups, including parents and the BOE, fully support the additional ENL Teacher FTE. All agree that it is extremely important to offer this extra support early in a child's education so they can be on par with their peers.	100000

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 (\$)
Supporting the increased costs of employee health Insurance premiums	The key goal is to provide health insurance to our employees at a level	All stakeholders strongly support using the increase in Foundation Aid to fund	1,300,000

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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 (\$)
	that is manageable for families. With the 14% increase in premiums in 2023, the district costs have increased significantly.	the additional health care premiums.	
Supporting increase in Security Services costs	The key goal is the safety of our students and staff. The additional Foundation Aid will be used to support the increase in cost for our School Resource Officer and also the prevailing wage increase in costs for our contracted Security Guards.	All stakeholders strongly support using the Foundation Aid increase to fund our security cost increases.	120,000
Supporting Transportation costs increases	The key goal is to transport our students safely to and from school each school day.	All stakeholders strongly support using the Foundation Aid increase to fund our transportation costs increases.	480,000

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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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)**

The Pearl River School District engaged a diverse and representative set of stakeholders as follows:

1. District Administration met with School Principals and Directors in our regularly scheduled Administrative Council meetings to discuss our needs and to brainstorm on the best use of the increase in Foundation Aid to be received by the District.

2. Next, principals met with their faculties at their monthly faculty meetings to obtain their ideas and thoughts.

3. Next, we presented ideas to the public during all the Board of Education Meetings that discussed the 2023-24 Budget. Once approved

by the Board of Education, we then prepared one final presentation to the public on June 6, 2023. The feedback from the public was very positive.

PRSD will continue to engage with stakeholders through the course of the funds by:

1. Continuing to work with School Principals and Directors at our monthly Administrative Council meetings. This includes discussions on how plans are going, where we are doing well and where improvement may be needed. Any areas will be addressed and monitored.

2. Principals will continue working with faculty at monthly staff meetings, ensuring goals are being met.

3. The District has monthly Parent/Administrative Council meetings whereby the PTA & District administration updates each other and asks any questions. This is how we continue regular engagement with parents.

4. Lastly, at our District bi-monthly BOE meetings, the Superintendent and BOE update the community on our plans and are available to answer any questions the community may have.