

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	Provide smaller class sizes and additional educational opportunities for students while eliminating the achievement gap created by COVID.	The additional staffing was discussed with the public during a school board meeting and the budget hearing. The public input was positive.	1078091
Reducing class sizes	Reduce elementary class size, create a student to teacher ratio of approximately 20:1	Was discussed at a board meeting and budget hearing. Public input was taken and supported. We will continue to take public input throughout the year concerning this matter	224132
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Providing additional help and opportunities for students not meeting the standards and making additional staff available for extra help.	Was discussed at a board of education meeting and budget hearing. We received public input and are supported in moving forward with these interventions.	425868
Addressing student social-emotional health	Increase staff to handle the additional social-emotional needs of the students.	The goal was discussed at a board of education meeting and the budget hearing outlining the District's plan to address these needs through an additional counselor, psychologist and administrators. The public feedback from these meetings support these increases in staffing. We will continue to seek input moving forward.	468523
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	n/a	n/a	0

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 (\$)
Updating collective bargaining agreements	Retain current staff and be competitive in recruiting and hiring new high quality staff members.	There has been a BOE/District/Community initiative to increase wages within the HFTA,	1,603,396

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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 (\$)
		HFAA, HFSRP, HFAA (admin)units to make salaries of these essential employees competitive in order to retain current staff and enable the district hire new staff into open positions.	

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)**

We commonly use our monthly Board Meetings to elicit community feedback. We have also recently completed broad community/staff/student survey on our schools. There were frequent comments about finding ways to support our students socially, mentally and emotionally. There were also frequent comments and suggestions that we offer more courses. As one of the larger local districts, we aim to offer our families an experience on par with that of any other district.