

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 | Maintain instructional coaches | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received | 1,025,392 |
| Reducing class sizes | Maintaining smaller class size at the elementary level | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received. Elementary parents support the smaller class sizes for their students. | 1,054,431 |
| Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas | Maintain the number of Academic Intervention Service Teachers K-12 | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received. | 913,698 |
| Addressing student social-emotional health | Maintain 4 guidance counselor & 4 Home instructors who were previously grant | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the | 828.525 |

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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 (\$) |
|---|---|--|---|
| | funded, in the general fund to support student assistance and mental health needs. | community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received. The community showed support of the Guidance Counselors despite limited feedback | |
| Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness | Maintain and expand access to ENL services for identified students by adding 1.0 ENL Teacher. At least 2 ENL teachers would have been cut from the budget | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received. | 450,000 |

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 (\$) |
|---|--|---|---|
| Maintain Tax Lev below the Minimum Allowable Levy Cap | The Board's priority is to maintain and enhance all programs, address student needs and enrichment while being fiscally responsible in keeping the tax levy below the maximum allowable levy cap | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available | 1,524,044 |

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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 (\$) |
|--|---|--|---|
| | | on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received. The community showed their support by the results of the budget vote | |
| Increase support for facilities and infrastructure | The Board's priority it to maintain and enhance the District's facilities to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. Transfer to Capitel | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received | 760,740 |
| Maintain UPK | The Board's priority is to maintain current UPK programs (district share) | The 2023-24 budget was presented at Board of Education meetings, to the community on the following dates: 1/19/2023, 2/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 4/13/2023, and 5/2/2023. In addition, there were many presentations to PTAs, school faculty and other groups by the Sup't of School. All Board Meetings are recorded and available on the District's website for community access and review. Over all consensus was support for the budget, despite limited feedback that was received | 282,934 |

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)**

Our plans for Foundation Aid expenditures were incorporated into the budget process. The budget is presented at multiple board meetings and budget forums that are open to the public. The information was also shared in a budget newsletter. The budget presentation and newsletter are also posted on the District's website, for the public to see. In each case, there is an additional opportunity for the public to submit written comment and question to the Board and/or Superintendent. At all District Board of Education Meetings, there are always two public comment periods. During the public budget workshops, advance notification is given. One common theme expressed by all is to maintain current programs while maintaining a tax levy increase affordable to taxpayers. Each building presented to the Board of Education and community their programs and focuses on the entire well-being of the student. The social-emotional aspect as well as the educational aspect. These meetings were well received by the community and highlighted what the budget supported. Parent groups, are usually the most vocal when it comes to programs, are content when programs and class-size are maintained.

While questions and comments were minimal, had we removed the programs and raised the tax levy, the overwhelming majority approval of the budget would not have happened.