

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	One of our Board of Education goals is to increase student achievement. The District has layered several resources hoping to increase achievement. The District's current graduation rate is 86%. Attendance is a growing concern and directly impacts the graduation rate. A dedicated FTE attendance officer will monitor and communicate to teachers and parents attendance concerns. 1.5 FTE teachers to implement creative hands-on courses such as Sports Management or Exercise Science. Career ready programs will continue to be implemented allowing students to work directly with industry leaders, learn career skills all while earning high school credit. Additional resources to improve the District's 25% reading proficiency include supporting 2 FTE Instructional Coaches to work directly with teachers on standardizing curriculum and working toward vertical and horizontal alignment. This will be done through extensive professional development.	34.9% of responses identified academics as the priority goal. Items such as standardized and consistent curriculum, use of data to make decisions and increase student contact time in the classroom were community comments.	576000
Reducing class sizes	The District added an additional section in fourth grade to maintain a small class ratio 16:1. Prior to the additional section being added class size would be closer to 23:1. Research shows smaller settings are more conducive for learning and differentiating instruction. Additionally, in our District, fourth graders experience a significant transition coming into a new building with students in grades 4-12; smaller class sizes can support this transition. A restructured AIS plan and RTI model have been developed and will continue to be supported through the use of a Coordinator. The Coordinator will support the District 10 days a month dedicated to this initiative. Additional responsibilities of	26% of responses identified an increase in student time in the classroom as a priority.	104000

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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 (\$)
	the Coordinator are to facilitate the work of Instructional Coaches. Continuation of 2 additional AIS teachers.		
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	NA	NA	NA
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District will continue to provide resources for a partnership with Connected Community School (CCS) to provide a link between the school and struggling families. It has been found that students often struggle as a result of things they can not control such as food insecurity, homelessness, abuse, trauma etc. During the 2022-2023 school year over 300 families received direct support. Additionally, the District is placing a Dean of Support Services to support the 4-8 student population. In 2022-23 the District came off the NYS identified list however this population is still struggling with regulating emotional, behaviors and social interactions, all which impede learning. Lastly, the District will support an additional social worker that was originally funded with ESSER III money.	22.4% of responses focused on increasing or providing adequate social and emotional supports either through personnel or programming	416000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District is undergoing a structural review with the assistance of a full time consultant. The model change will allow additional students to stay in the District in a least restrictive setting. 2 FTE additional staffing will be supported to accomplish this.	NA	\$300,000

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.

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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 (\$)
Additional Enrichment opportunities for students	Add gaming to our genre of activities for students that may otherwise not feel that they fit into the arts or sports opportunities.	Several responses identified additional opportunities for students not only those struggling but also those gifted.	40,000
Upgrade the communication systems	Upgrade the communication systems	16.7% of respondents identified safety as a priority.	200,000

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)**

The District opened a survey available to staff, parents and community members. The survey was multiple choice with the ability to add open ended comments after each section. Respondents were given an opportunity to comment on several areas that they felt were a priority, including, but not limited to the following areas: academic achievement, student accountability, safety, health & wellness, and social & emotional support. The data was used to determine if District initiatives were in alignment with the survey results. Many of the recommendations had been implemented within the District's 2023-24 budget. Some items that were not addressed in this upcoming budget were related to school climate, additional classroom time or items that are in conflict with Board of Education goals.