

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	To provide professional development and support for our instructional staff to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of our students in an effort to close the achievement gap and improve our graduation rates.	11% of the feedback received from the community was related to the importance of increasing our graduation rates and offering support to close the achievement gap.	651,292
Reducing class sizes	Our goal is reduction of class size at our elementary level and to assess the need for a 9 period day at the secondary level by providing additional courses to lower class sizes.	29% of the community feedback expressed the importance of reducing the class sizes to allow better learning opportunities.	1,717,044
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	By increasing the number of academic enrichment opportunities and courses to assist with improving foundational reading and math skills.	14% of the community expressed concern for students in need of extra support in meeting learning standards in core academic subjects.	828,918
Addressing student social-emotional health	We have added additional support staff (social workers, psychologists, etc.) to work with students (and staff) to meet the SEL needs of our students.	17% of the feedback focused on addressing the social emotional needs of our students.	1,006,543
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	By providing professional development on a wide range of topics as well as materials for staff that explicitly addresses the needs of our ELLs, students with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness in an effort to close the achievement gap and provide the support needed for these students to succeed.	17% of the community expressed the need to provide support to these subgroups.	1,006,543

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 (\$)
Other - Safety & Security	In an effort to provide a safe and	12% of the community voiced their	710,500

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Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

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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 (\$)
	supportive environment for all students and staff, we are improving our infrastructure and increasing staff.	concerns with safety and security.	

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)**

At our March 30, 2023 budget meeting, the District presented an overview of the Foundation Aid Increase Survey to our Board of Education and Community. The meeting was held in public, and also streamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Public comment was sought from parents, teachers and other stakeholders at this meeting. The District also created a unique email address for all stakeholders to provide feedback over the following two week period. The newly created email address was shared at the public meeting, displayed on the District's website, and emailed to all families and staff members.

The District received 20 emails over the two week period. The feedback received covered a wide variety of topics and viewpoints. Of the five priority areas in the plan, the area that received the most comments was reducing class sizes. This was reflected in the largest percentage of emails we received. The District also received suggestions in other areas, which were almost equally distributed, among the remaining four priority areas.

In addition to the priority areas provided for public comment, we also received feedback about other areas that are important to our community. The one that stood out the most was safety and security. Specifically, requests to enhance security with a variety of suggestions on how to accomplish this goal.

All of the feedback described above will be incorporated into the Foundation Aid Survey Plan.