

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	Preserve existing instructional staff	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	3590911
Reducing class sizes	New technology classrooms at the high school	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	150112
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Secure staff to provide support for all students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas.	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that	1351007

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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 (\$)
		generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	
Addressing student social-emotional health	Additional guidance, psychologist and social worker salary previously funded by ARP.	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	355761
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Provide all students with disabilities with the most appropriate placement and resources. Secure staff to provide support to English language learners. Contribute to new improvements at BOCES to provide additional opportunities for our students.	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	4122524

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 (\$)
Security	Maintain a safe environment for the students.	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the	281,856

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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 (\$)
		budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	
Operations & Maintenance	Maintain a safe environment for the students.	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	1,256,803
Transportation	Provide adequate and necessary transportation for all resident student. New bus purchases.	The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the	3,725,013

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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 (\$)
		District prescribed ranges based on grade level.	

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)**

Overall, feedback was solicited at nearly two dozen separate District meetings with a broad group of District stakeholders and community members contacted and engaged.

Dozens of emails were received as a result of these outreach efforts. Of the approximately 177 comments / requests sent via email, the overarching themes, categories and common requests included:

- 7% - More social emotional support for students
- 20% - More teachers, lower class sizes, academic intervention
- 8% - Facility improvements
- 16% - More safety and security investments
- 29% - More special education investments
- 20% - More ENL supports

The District administered survey, with 317 responses, indicated strong public support for the following categories of expenditure:

- Increased graduation rates (39.7%)
- Reduced class sizes (59%)
- Academic supports (77.6%)
- Social emotional supports (59.3%)
- Resources for ENL students (43.2%)

The District has made a good faith effort to solicit and analyze feedback for the use of the Foundation Aid increase. Fortunately, many of the budget priorities align with the feedback received including investments in safety and security, special education investments including additional release time for IEP work and some limited hiring. In other areas such as smaller class sizes, the District will likely not be investing (hiring more teachers) due to decreasing enrollment trends and class sizes that generally fall within the District prescribed ranges based on grade level.