

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Background/Instructions**

Page Last Modified: 06/29/2023

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/30/2023

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	The Regents diploma graduation rate from Troy High School will increase by 3% for each school year until it exceeds 90% and the number of students obtaining a Regents Diploma with Distinction will increase by 5% each year.	Community voiced concern to retain current expanded staff levels and attract highly effective candidates	1426052
Reducing class sizes	Keep elementary class size to 20 or less. The number of students overall and for each subgroup measured for accountability achieving proficiency on Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments will increase as follows: - 20% of our students who score at Level 1 will improve to Levels 2, 3 and 4 the following year - 20% of our students who score at Level 2 will improve to Levels 3 and 4 the following year	Community voiced gratitude for small class sizes that include co-teacher models at the elementary levels that allow for small group instruction	163,425
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The percentage of students who are Chronically Absent, as defined by NYSED, will decrease in each building and districtwide by 2 percentage points each year for the next five years	Community voiced need to address chronically absent students and remove barriers to get to school	245,138
Addressing student social-emotional health	Through improved student engagement in learning, development of citizenship values and use of behavioral interventions, violations of the student Code of Conduct will decline in each school by 5% each year.	Community was grateful for the expansion of social-emotional staff for the last 7 years and requested expansion of those positions and services	81,713
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Guided by the NYS Board of Regents Framework on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the NYSED's Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education framework, equity in opportunities and outcomes will be improved for all students throughout the district.	Community expressed need for expanded services for students with disabilities, especially in high need classrooms and Middle school	166,347

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/30/2023

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 (\$)
School Safety	Improve school safety through capital improvements and additional safety staff	School community voiced great concern for school safety measures	695,902
School Facility Improvements	Make much needed improvements to school facilities and grounds	School community commented on our need to replace aging school buildings, infrastructure, and ADA access	5,025,000

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 budget committee met with District administrators and school parent groups to receive feedback/recommendations on the use of additional Foundation aid. In addition, the District sought public comment through a Google survey available on our website and disseminated to parents through Parent Square notification system. Common recommendations were to ensure we keep all staff that was added recently through previous years' State Aid increases and expanded Federal Aid (ex. ARP), improve school safety measures, improve school buildings, add additional after-school activities, improve attendance, and continue to expand social/emotional mental health services.

The only common recommendation not listed in the plan above was for expanding after school activities. We have significantly funded after school activities through the Federal ARP funding and continue to look for internal and external partners to provide these expanded activities.