

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

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

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: 05/22/2023

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	Board of Education Policy #8470 identifies class size goals within the following grade spans: Kindergarten: 18 - 22 Grades 1st - 3rd: 21 - 24 Grades 4th - 5th: 23 - 27 Grades 6th - 12th: 25 - 30 7.1 FTE Teaching positions were added to the 2023-24 budget to reduce class sizes within the Board of Education policy ranges. Funds were also used to maintain cost increases related to existing staffing levels.	The 2023-24 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 2/7/2023, 2/28/2023, 3/14/2023, 3/28/2023, and 4/11/2023. In addition, the District's Finance Committee met on 12/13/2022 and 6/6/2023. Feedback was requested after each presentation, and the general consensus was that the community was in support of these staffing additions, as evidenced by majority voter support of the District's 2023-24 budget.	4492647
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	N/A	N/A	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	N/A	N/A	0
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	NYS Education Law 3204 and Part 154-2.3d(2) Regulations contain standards for educational services provided to ELL students, one of which requires that a district must implement a bilingual education program in those grades where there are 20 or more ELL students with the same home language. Brewster has surpassed that benchmark in 11 of 13 grades (including Kindergarten), with several grades requiring multiple bilingual sections. It is anticipated that within the next few years, that benchmark will be reached in every grade level and multiple bilingual sections will be required within certain grades. 2.5 FTE Bilingual/ENL Teacher positions were added to the 2023-24 budget to address these mandates.	The 2023-24 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 2/7/2023, 2/28/2023, 3/14/2023, 3/28/2023, and 4/11/2023. In addition, the District's Finance Committee met on 12/13/2022 and 6/6/2023. Feedback was requested after each presentation, and the general consensus was that the community was in support of these staffing additions, as evidenced by majority voter support of the District's 2023-24 budget.	251340

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 IncreaseUse of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 05/22/2023

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 (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

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)**

For the past several years, community forums were held to solicit feedback from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing issues facing the District and opportunities for improvement. The most recent community forums were held on 11/29/2022 and 3/7/2023. One common theme was the desire to reduce class sizes to provide for optimal learning.