

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.

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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	The district will offer a combination of day and afterschool academic intervention services programs. In addition, the district has incorporated guidance counselors into the general fund to help eliminate achievement gaps.	Based on the foundation aid survey responses, community members strongly suggested continued or increased use of academic intervention services and social emotional learning services to support student needs.	1,110,785
Reducing class sizes	Maintain current small class sizes at the elementary and secondary level.	Based on community responses to the foundation aid survey, the parents are supportive of maintaining small class sizes and suggested the district hire even more teachers. Lockport currently has class sizes lower than contractual or state limits.	1,511,682
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The District will be implementing a program known as Connexus that is an alternative learning platform to traditional high school instruction and/or as a gap closing/credit recovery model. The district will also be implementing a 24/7 online tutoring platform known as Paper.	Based on the community responses to the foundation aid survey, a suggestion was made to offer more programs to meet the unique learning needs of students.	120,187
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District will be implementing two anti-bullying programs for the 2023/2024 school year - Rachel's Challenge and Olweus to address the social emotional health of the students as it relates to bullying. In addition, the district has incorporated psychologists and social workers into the general fund to help address the social emotional needs of the students.	Based on community responses to the foundation aid survey, many from the comments feel students are continuing to display inappropriate behaviors towards other students and staff and these supports are needed to address this concern.	1,370,899
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District is adding four additional self contained special education classes in district buildings to best meet student needs in the least restrictive environment. The district has also secured additional agency placements for those students who have specialized needs.	Based on community responses to the foundation aid survey, the community supports the hiring of additional special education staff.	1,795,642

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 (\$)
Reading instruction grade K-6	The District is currently exploring and will be implementing a new reading program at the grades K-6 levels.	Based on community responses to the foundation aid survey, suggestions were made to devote additional funds to specifically address literacy.	342,512
Campus Safety and Security	Add security for the K-4 buildings and hire an additional School Resource Officer.	Based on community, faculty and administrative feedback more security is needed.	97,500
Transportation	Create two Child Safety Zones for high risk areas upon successful voter approval.	Based on parent and voter approval to provide transportation in high crime areas of the district.	237,228
Professional Development	Create and implement high impact teaching strategies and culturally responsive practices throughout all K-12 classrooms.	Based on community responses during the recent (March 2023) new superintendent search process, the community has expressed that there is a need for culturally responsive practices to be enacted throughout the district right away.	163,280

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 Board of Education discussed at length during public and televised board of education meetings in February and March 2023 the impact of increased foundation aid and how it would be distributed in the general fund budget. A priority is to increase and/or add behavioral specialists and social workers to meet students needs. The board and community also wanted to maintain smaller class sizes in grades K-12. The foundation aid increase was instrumental in keeping smaller class sizes. A foundation aid increase survey was created and published to the community in April 2023. Parents accounted for 69% of the responses, teachers accounted for 22.4% and staff/community members accounted for 8.6%. The survey results were analyzed. There was also significant community and stakeholder feedback received during January, February and March 2023 during our new superintendent search, which was utilized to assist the district with creating its 2023-2024 budget.