

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	Provide opportunities for deeper instruction in reading and math, early and often	Community voiced a need for more targeted interventions and support	1108457
Reducing class sizes	NA	NA	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	NA	NA	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	Provide increased supports for all students due to growing student mental health needs through a decrease in counselor/social worker/psych caseload size	Community voiced concerns over current availability of mental health providers especially at the elementary level.	596619
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Constantly fluctuating McKinney-Vento/homeless youth population	Getting at-risk students to school regularly	666119

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

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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- 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)**

Beginning in the fall, we provided opportunity for all teaching faculty and administration to participate in a survey in partnership with the organization EAB that addressed school climate and culture. Building on results from that survey, we began planning our areas of need for budgeting. Following, we held multiple public meetings surrounding the budget and use of increased foundation aid funds over the course of the late winter through spring. The community at large was invited to these meetings and given the opportunity to comment on planned funding. We also held virtual meetings to make attendance more accessible during the spring. These were primarily led by our superintendent and assistant superintendent for business. Staff presentations were also held both in-person and virtually throughout the district allowing for instructional and non-instructional staff to weigh in on decision making. During these meetings, what we heard the most was the need for increased support in the area of student mental health. We have also regularly heard from our elementary faculty, an increased need for academic intervention services. Both are reflected in our foundation aid increase. Finally, our need for transportation support for a changing McKinney-Vento/homeless youth population has put a strain on our transportation department, and this has been felt district-wide.