

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

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**Background and Instructions**Background

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	Continuation of teacher on special assignment (TOSA) support in instruction, technology integration, and special education; maintain school resource officer	Community Feedback Survey - May 2023; BOE Budget Discussion - 5/9/23; Building/Department Budget Meetings - January 2023; Administrative Meetings - February 2023, March 2023, April 2023, May 2023, June 2023	828000
Reducing class sizes	Class size ratio already within community targets. Continuation of existing staff to maintain small class sizes	Community Feedback Survey - May 2023; BOE Budget Discussion - 5/9/23; Building/Department Budget Meetings - January 2023; Administrative Meetings - February 2023, March 2023, April 2023, May 2023, June 2023. Class size is a priority through the regular budget rather than through the Foundation Aid Increase. The District will continue to prioritize maintaining manageable class sizes at all levels.	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Maintain support in the Learning Center at the High School; implementation of a new reading program and practices aligned to the science of reading to strengthen our tier 1 instruction and better identify students at risk of not meeting state learning standards; continue academic intervention staff.	Community Feedback Survey - May 2023; BOE Budget Discussion - 5/9/23; Building/Department Budget Meetings - January 2023; Administrative Meetings - February 2023, March 2023, April 2023, May 2023, June 2023	1079000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Continuation of two additional social workers; installation of new playground for expanded pre-k program; continue supporting and expanding clubs and activities for students; support mental health trainings for student athletes; expand family support center and family evening events	Community Feedback Survey - May 2023; BOE Budget Discussion - 5/9/23; Building/Department Budget Meetings - January 2023; Administrative Meetings - February 2023, March 2023, April 2023, May 2023, June 2023	648000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Support district psychology intern; continue to support special class offerings at the elementary level; expand unified sport options for student athletes; continuation of youth at risk coordinator	Community Feedback Survey - May 2023; BOE Budget Discussion - 5/9/23; Building/Department Budget Meetings - January 2023; Administrative Meetings - February 2023, March 2023, April 2023, May 2023, June 2023	224000

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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.)

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)

HCSD requested public input on the development of a plan for the use of increase in Foundational Aid. At the May 9, 2023 meeting of the HCSD Board of Education there was a discussion regarding the anticipated 2023-24 increase in Foundation Aid funding. A three question survey was emailed to all families and staff on May 24, 2023. Use of the funding was also discussed in the monthly administrator meetings as well as in the 2023-24 budget discussions. In addition to identifying the specific stakeholder group the respondent represented and prioritizing each of the priority areas from 1-5, HCSD also solicited feedback on the following questions: Please identify a program/district initiative that has positively impacted the school experience that is related to one or more of the areas listed above. The main responses were as follows:

- 44% of the responses indicated that funds should be used for Resources to English Language Learners (ELL), students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness
- 71% of the responses indicated that funds should be used for Social-Emotional Health
- 73% of the responses indicated that funds should be used for Additional Learning Supports for Students
- 66% of the responses indicated that funds should be used for Reducing Class Sizes
- 38% of the responses indicated that funds should be used for Increasing Graduation Rates