

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	Providing more academic opportunities and options for students by adding additional EMCC slots for 23-24. This gives 5 additional students an alternative pathway to keep them engaged. We also increased our use of Science Kits to align with the state standards.	The community voiced their general concern for "targeted academic support" within our survey	68,635
Reducing class sizes	Maintain small class-size, specifically in 5th grade as there was a spike in enrollment. 74 in cohort. Adding an Elem Ed Teacher reduces the class size to 19 students/class instead of 24/class.	Community voiced concerns regarding keeping small class sizes, especially at the elementary level.	79,978
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Enhance current tutoring initiatives to reach more students in a small group setting by providing after-school access to tutors as well as enhanced summer options to focus on English/Math content areas. By utilizing additional foundation funding, we can provide tutoring services to approximately 30 additional students. We also are utilizing a School Improvement service through BOCES to analyze our data to identify the students in need in order to provide additional support.	The community voiced their general concern for "targeted academic support" within our survey	122,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Increase the number of counselors in specific areas in order to reduce the ratio of 142 students per counselor to 111 students per counselor. Added services for a Behavioral Specialist to further address mental health needs of our students. Added Second Step & Panorama licenses to maintain initiatives we started with Federal Funding.	The community voiced their general concern for students overall mental health and access to mental health support during the school day.	222,981
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Providing adequate, small class size instruction to ELL students as we have experienced an influx of ELL students. Adding (2) ENL Teachers will reduce student/teacher ratios to 12:1. We are also preparing for a large number of medically	The community voiced their general concern for	612,965

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	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	fragile K students next year. Out-of-district services will be needed to accomodate these students to provide FAPE.		

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 (\$)
Utilities - Gas & Electric	Due to the increase in rates for gas and electric, part of the foundation increase is allotted to this anticipated expense.	The Community did not specifically address this topic when answering our survey	29,000
Transportation	Due to the increase in transportation rates due the lack of drivers, part of the foundation increase is allotted to this anticipated expense.	The Community did not specifically address this topic when answering our survey	32,676
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training/Resources	Increase the BOCES service for additional training/services with our teachers, staff, and students. This service allows us to have more hours of access to a Director of DEI and an Assistant Director of DEI.	The community voiced concerns that our staff and students needed access to training and resources in this area	12,000
Student & Staff Health & Safety	Provide contracted cleaning staff as needed during times of hiring shortages.	The Community did not specifically address this topic when answering our survey	27,103

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)**

Approximately 64% of school stakeholder responses focused on access to mental health support and/or counseling/social worker services for students and families. As a result, the 23-24 budget includes (2) new counseling positions, increases in licenses for programs started with ARP, and increased behavioral specialist services.

Approximately 16% of survey responses focused on targeted academic support and/or tutoring. A large portion of our ARP funds have been dedicated to this topic in 23-24. The 23-24 budget does include a summer learning program, targeted tutoring programs for Math and ELA; and enhanced opportunities for tutoring in elementary and Jr/Sr High grade levels.

Approximately 10% of survey responses focused on maintaining small class sizes in the elementary school. For 23-24, an additional Elementary School Teacher has been added to the budget as well as additional teacher aides for student support.

Approximately 5% of survey responses focused on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training/Resources. As part of the 23-24 budget, our district belongs to the Diversity & Equity Services Coser through BOCES and also participates in school improvement & staff development services.

The "other topics" in our survey responses focused on basic needs for students, ie. clothing, food. While these specific items are not addressed with the estimated 23-24 foundation aid increase, our district does partner with a community organization to provide clothing/shoes/boots to students in need. This community organization is located inside our school complex. For the topic of food, the responses centered around providing "free" meals to all students. Our district is currently exploring CEP for the upcoming school year to address this topic in the survey.