

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	The District has a Strategic Objective to increase the percentage of West Genesee High School students who graduate in 4 years. The Total Cohort Reports - 4 Year Outcome (SIRS-201) are analyzed. The 2015 Cohort (Graduating Class of 2019) completer rate was 95.3%. The 2018 Cohort (Graduating Class of 2022) completer rate was 92.8%. To support students, Foundation Aid will Provide addition of a reading teacher and a Science Intervention teacher; continue to support our growing Fine Arts program by adding two music teachers and two art teachers; continue to provide academic intervention programs and enrichment for our at risk, student population as determined through FAST Score assessments and progress monitoring, as well as common formative assessments; continue to fund all positions that were either fully or partially funded through federal grant monies over the last two years; continue to provide Tier 1 social-emotional instruction to all students and additional Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports to students in need of more intensive remediation.	One commenter mentioned that the district should continue to analyze learning gaps. And then be creative to remediate and extend learning. Another specifically asked about the district intervening with primary age students to close gaps in their reading skills.	1869243
Reducing class sizes	This is addressed in the Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap priority area.	N/A	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	This is addressed in the Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap priority area.	N/A	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District has a Strategic SMART goal that states by June 2024, all WG schools will establish Guiding Coalitions as part of becoming a district-wide Professional Learning Community (PLC). These coalitions will develop a Multi-Tiered	One commenter asked for the District to take a hard look at counselor and social worker caseloads relative to NYSED recommendations.	105,000

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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 (\$)
	System of Support (MTSS) framework focusing on instructional schedules which allow for the development of the PLC, and an MTSS triangle encompassing Academics, Behaviors, and Social-Emotional Learning. These Guiding Coalitions will create building-wide SMART goals as a means to align professional learning opportunities and to monitor their progress. To support this goal, the increase in Foundation Aid gives the District the ability to re-create a Director of Counseling Services, a position that was cut in tighter economic times, to oversee the implementation of SEL curricula - UPK-12.		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District has a Strategic SMART goal that states by June 2023, all district staff will participate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) Interactive Training to create a safe, supportive and equitable school climate and culture for all students. To support our diversifying population, the District will use increased Foundation Aid to provide 2.0 additional English as a New Language teachers in Grades K-4 and 7-8; two additional Special Educators to meet the needs of our students with Disabilities and allocate additional funds for students with disabilities in out-of-district residential placements.	The community feedback encouraged the District to increase the support for English Language Learners	840792

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 (\$)
Support Safety in Our Schools	The District's Professional Learning Plan includes a goal to show a decrease of 5% in School Safety and the Educational Climate (SSEC)	One commenter mentioned that having additional school patrol officers helps with the need to support students that are chronically absent from school.	316,659

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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 (\$)
	reportable offenses (baseline June 2022 data) The District will utilize the increase in Foundation Aid to fully fund six School Patrol Officers and WGHS's School Resource Officer, as well as add an additional school monitor for WGHS and begin to upgrade the district's security cameras.		
Address annual inflationary increases	According to the NYS Office of the State Comptroller, the Fiscal Year 2023 Inflation Factor was 8.00%. To combat this increase, the District will utilize Foundation Aid to fund materials and supplies that have increased due to inflation, fund equipment replacement programs within our classrooms and schools, continue to replace textbooks, and keep pace with contractual and mandatory employee benefits and salary increases.	At a public forum, one audience member asked for the rate of inflation and how that impacted the overall budget. The CPI and the overall increase in the district budget are both 8.0%.	2,023,485
Provide supports to both students and employees in various areas of the District	There are additional goals from the District's Strategic Plan (including establishing a cycle of curriculum review for alignment with the New York State Learning Standards) as well as other support for our students and staff. These include the addition of LAN Tech to provide technical support to faculty and staff, addition of two Varsity Assistant Coaches to support our athletes, addition of a Pre-K teacher that is not supported by Federal Monies, addition of a PLC/DEI coach to support our continued essential standards and culturally responsive -sustaining education work, continuation of High School Administrative Intern to support our students.	N/A	317,000

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)**

Requests for public feedback on the Foundation Aid Plan were delivered to District residents in multiple formats. The Plan and a link to a survey for feedback was published in multiple editions of the District newsletter (April 14, 2023 edition, April 28, 2023 edition). The Plan was shared with PTA representatives from every school and the special education parent teacher student association on April 11, 2023 and at Board of Education open sessions (March 29, 2023 agenda item, May 3, 2023 Budget Hearing presentation).

The Assistant Superintendents for Management Services and Curriculum & Instruction reviewed the feedback based on the priority areas.

Community input was provided during Budget Committee meetings and board meetings

Assistant Superintendent for Management Services Christine DeMass presented the administrative, revenue, program portions of the 2023-2024 proposed spending plan during Board of Education meetings. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments and input. The community is also welcome to provide feedback during the open forums at the beginning and end of the Board meetings.

The proposed program portions of the budget were presented on:

- January 18, 2023,
- February 15, 2023, and
- March 1, 2023.

The proposed budget was reviewed on March 15, 2023 and March 29, 2023.

The information herein was shared in the annual public hearing prior to the Board of Education meeting on May 3, 2023 and at the Regular Board of Education meeting on June 7, 2023 at which time public comment was facilitated.