

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	N/A	The question in regards to eliminating the achievement gap ranked fourth over all in our survey responses	0.00
Reducing class sizes	The district will be using funds to fill empty teaching positions in order to keep class sizes at the reduced amounts.	Maintaining current class sizes was the highest priority for those that responded to the survey.	195,000.00
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 using funds for Intervention Math and Reading Teachers.	The expansion of intervention and enrichment programs ranked as 2nd most important to those that answered the survey.	310,000.00
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district will be addressing student social and emotional health with funding of social workers and counselors.	The social emotional health of students ranked 3rd in priorities of those taking the survey.	220,000.00
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The district will be increasing spending for special education students in order to place them in proper settings to meet their social and emotional needs.	Providing resources to meet the needs of ELL and SWD students ranked 6 out of 7 in the survey.	468,367.00

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 (\$)
Promote maintenance and Cleanliness in the buildings	The district will fill the four empty cleaning positions.	Promoting maintenance and cleanliness ranked number 5 in priorities.	200,000
Strengthen the district's financial position	The district is reducing the appropriated fund balance in 2023-2024. Relying less on reserves and fund balance in the future.	The financial position of the district ranked last in the survey	140,024

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)**

Statistics

Twenty-four (24) different survey responses were received.

Foundation Aid

Stakeholders had seven categories to rank. They were also given the opportunity to create their own response. The categories pre-populated for them were as follows:

Options:

1. Maintain current class sizes
2. Eliminate the achievement gap
3. Prioritize Social-Emotional Learning
4. Strengthen the district's financial position
5. Promote maintenance and cleanliness in the buildings
6. Expand the intervention and/or enrichment programs
7. Provide additional supports for ELL and/or Students with Disabilities

Respondents were asked to rank the categories between 1 and 7, with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important. In order to analyze the data, we took the total score for each category, so the lower the score, the more important it was viewed by respondents. The results are as follows:

Option #	Total Score	Ranking
1	75	1
2	102	4
3	81	3
4	118	7
5	108	5
6	77	2
7	111	6

The results of the state aid survey showed respondents felt that the additional monies would be best be suited to maintain current class sizes, expand intervention and enrichment programs, and to prioritize social-emotional learning.

Comments

Additional comments received were in regards to expanding self-contained special education classrooms beyond 5th grade, improving sporting facilities and maintaining high quality teachers.