

**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.

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**

## 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	Increase in salaries for teaching assistants in general education classes to assist teachers in classroom instruction and identify students who are falling behind. In addition, funds were added to support software packages provided via BOCES to be used in the educational program. Approximately \$138,000	Community input in agreement with the importance of teaching assistants in classroom learning. The teaching assistants can help students who are not grasping concepts being taught which allows the teacher to focus on the job of teaching.	419,256.00
Reducing class sizes	Increase budget for K-12 teacher salaries to ensure favorable student - teacher ratios.	Ensure the district maintains a 25:1 student - teacher ratio of less for Elementary with a goal of 20:1. District maintains a 30:1 ratio or less for secondary education with a goal of 25.	636,799.00
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Additional new staff includes a new stream teacher.	Budget forum input agreed that this position is key to addressing learning loss and to ensure student success.	195,580.00
Addressing student social-emotional health	District to increase funds for its Family Resource Center to allow increased contractual hours for the Family Resource Center staff to provide family events.	Budget document for community input agreed that these positions are key to addressing learning loss and to ensure student success.	265,650.00
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	District increased budget under special education classrooms. In addition, budget for small and large buses who transport students to classes operated by BOCES or private placements was increased.	Budget forum input agreed that these positions were essential to ensure the success of students with disabilities student success.	1,281,658.00

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

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**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)**

An annual Budget Presentation at the BOE Meeting is presented to the public – on March 21, 2023.

The Budget Hearing was on April 18th, 2023. A PowerPoint presentation was shared during a BOE meeting. During both meetings, several opportunities are planned in the agenda for the public for questions and/or concerns. We developed a quick link on the district website for budget information, which was also shared on our social media platforms. The annual Budget Matters newsletter is distributed to all residents and includes the budget mission, development goals, key initiatives, and Q&A specific to the 2023-24 proposed budget. The Supplemental Budget Detail is the line-by-line budget posted on the website for public access. This document, the PowerPoint, and Budget Matters are all translated into Spanish. The District Clerk's email address and Public Relations & Community Outreach (PRCO) Specialist's contact info are provided in the newsletter to allow direct communication by the public to the district's central office. The district receives phone calls and emails to answer these questions.

Items that support the NYS Report:

- embed the district's seven core competencies in the curriculum to foster success on a global platform: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Compassion, Content Mastery, Cultural Awareness
- create a District-wide and building-based climate and culture that supports systemic equity and improved student achievement
- narrow the predictable gap in measurable outcomes
- IMPROVE the Safety of Students & Structure of Buildings with Capital Projects
- STRENGTHEN K-5 Literacy with phonics curriculum and aligned professional development
- SUSTAIN all existing programs and class sizes
- Increase support for families with more Family Resource Center coordinator hours
- P I L O T the AP African American Studies Course at Nyack High School
- CONTINUE 1:1 Technology Plan for K-12 Students, providing each student with devices
- EXPAND staff for English Language Learners and Special Education students
- PROVIDE a STREAM teacher at all Elementary Schools
- ESTABLISH permanent substitute teachers at every school
- UPGRADE Fitness Center at Nyack High School