

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	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	Goal: Reduce class size in our K-2 classrooms. Ratios: Reduce class size from 23-25 to 18-20.	50% of community respondents indicated smaller class size was important. Community respondents also stated a continued focus on social emotional learning (SEL) was important (72%).	312000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Goal: Increase support for students at risk K-12. Ratio: 1 academic/behavior specialist for K-6 and 1 for 7-12.	72% of community respondents indicated a continued focus on SEL was important.	208000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Goal: Increase enrichment opportunities during the school day. Increase student access to certified staff. Ratio: increase students agricultural experiences in grades 3-12 by increasing agriculture FTE from 1-2. Increase school counseling staff K-6 from 2 to 3 and 7-12 from 2 to 3. Maintain after school & summer enrichment programs	80% of community respondents support the district's enrichment program. 72% of community respondents indicated a continued focus on SEL. 45% of community respondents indicated wanting more support for students entering the workforce.	758000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Goal: Increase special education support for elementary teachers. Ratio: 1 special education teacher for K-1, 1 for 2-3, 1 for 4-5 and 1 for 6th. Provide translation services through EIS Community (or other vendor for students with ESL needs) provide materials & supplies in ESL languages required.	50% of community respondents indicated smaller class size was important. Community respondents also stated a continued focus on social emotional learning (SEL) was important (72%).	250000

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.

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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 (\$)
Pupil Support	Goal: Increase the pupil support available to students in the elementary school. Ration: Increase pupil support from 1 principal for every 600 students to 1 principal for every 300-400 students. Additional support staff have been added to assist with monitoring attendance, family engagement and community outreach. Specifically, regarding attendance and assistance with afterschool/summer enrichment programs (i.e., registration, attendance, and general support).	72% of community respondents indicated a continued focus on SEL was important. 80% of community respondents support the district's enrichment program. Majority of respondents agreed we are a community that supports each other.	423,600
Contractual Obligations	Fund negotiated contractual obligations of salary & health insurance	Per staff contracts	564,551
Addressing Students Social/Emotional Health	Increase chorus/band and sports participation 3 new music teachers to the district, 2 modified & 1 JV Volleyball coach(s) and team supplies, 1 JV Baseball coach & team supplies	Survey respondents fully support expansion of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities	80,000

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)**

From March-April 2023 the district participated in a Thought Exchange Survey. The prompting question was, "we're planning for our future! What should we be considering for short and long-term planning for the district? What are we doing well and what can we improve on?" We had 132 participants with 1479 ratings. There was equal distribution of parents, staff and community members. Parents and staff were equally representative of K-12. The top ratings follow: continued SEL efforts K-12, as a community we support each other, more support for students entering the workforce, continue afterschool and summer enrichment programs, and smaller class sizes.

Increasing graduation rate and closing the achievement gap is not directly addressed in our plan above, all of the priority areas will positively impact our graduation rate and close our achievement gap. Specifically, decreasing class size (K-2 classrooms), providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas (K-6 and 7-12 behavior/academic specialist); addressing student social-emotional health (increased school day enrichment, additional school counselor K-6 and 7-12), providing additional resources to students with disabilities (additional special education teacher for K-6), and additional pupil support (additional principal for elementary and additional support staff).

Addressing students social/emotional needs through expanded music, art & sports offerings: District hired 3 new music teachers to the district to expand course offerings, rebrand, and get students more involved in school centered activities. For example: immediately following COVID - 9-12 Chorus had only 19 members and Band had only 17. Working on that expansion, in 22-23 the district has 30 band members and 32 chorus members. More instruments and district uniforms are needed to support this expansion. In addition, the district has focused on expanding sports participation. From 21-22 to 22-23 we had to expand our Volleyball program to include 2 modified and 1 JV volleyball team, and 1 JV Baseball team. We may be looking to add more modified teams in the future due to these larger participation rates. More uniforms and equipment is needed to accommodate larger number of students as well as coaching staff.