

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 will monitor graduation rates, state test scores and other metrics to see the effectiveness of the programs that are being implemented with the additional funds.	Closing achievement gaps has been a topic of concern from families, teachers, administration and the Board of Education over the past few years. The district continues to self-reflect on ways to better support students and also retaining teachers and continuing to offer a robust program K-12 for students to be successful.	1,000,000
Reducing class sizes	The district will use the money to keep the current program offerings and staff. This will ensure that the class sizes continue to stay small throughout the district.	Recently, community members have voiced concerns on creating small class sizes specifically in the K-5 program. The district will use the increase in aid to continue the programming in place and offer 2-3 sections per grade level which will keep class sizes small.	1,000,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The district added multiple Academic Intervention Specialists in the K-8 grade levels to support learning loss. The district will use i-Ready data, state test scores, fountas and Pinnell reading scores and other data points to track student improvement and growth	Community members have continued to advocate for additional services for students who are struggling in the areas of Math and ELA in grades K-6. Multiple meetings took place where families advocated for this including BOE Meetings, Town Halls and emails.	250,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district will look at discipline data along with attendance data to view the effectiveness of the money being spent on SEL. The district will also use future surveys for families and students to see what areas the district can improve on in terms of SEL supports.	Families, community members, faculty, staff and administration recognize and have voiced the need to add additional SEL support. The district has hired 1.4 social workers and will use the money to continue to support the salaries of the staff members as well as use the money to bring in professional development for staff, assemblies and programs for students.	175,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The district will look at a cost saving metric to compare how much money they were spending to send students out of district as compared to hiring staff, purchasing curriculum and professional development for the new ENL Newcomer program. The district will also use data points including but not limited to report cards, NYSITELL	The community has voiced concerns on the district spending excessive money to support out of district programs including but not limited to ENL and Special Education services. The district recognizes this as a concern and will be using the money to create an ENL Newcomer program for students entering grades 9-12	150,000

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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 (\$)
	scores and other metrics to look at the effectiveness of the program.		

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)

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)

Stakeholders were contacted using a variety of methods including e-mail, parent meetings, Board of Education meetings, Town Halls and the Classdojo Application. Most stakeholders agreed that using these funds to ensure that students have access to learning opportunities designed to target their needs and bridge any gaps that exist in their academics. One recommendation offered from stakeholders was to use the funding to provide more students with access to an interventionist. The district is using the foundation aid increase to bring on additional interventionists to support the K-8 program. Students that receive frequent intervention from a specialist, perform better in the classroom. Stakeholders agree that this kind of support should be available to any student that is not meeting grade level expectations. The community has also discussed the excessive amount of money the district spends on sending students out due to special education needs. The district is adding a special education teacher with the foundation aid increase. The district also recognized an increase in english as a new language students entering the district with little to no english in grades 9-12. The district is using some of the foundation aid to increase money to hire an additional ENL teacher and creating a Newcomer program that specifically supports students entering grades 9-12 with no English proficiency skills. The community feedback from several meetings and surveys also showed a need for additional SEL support. The district will be using some of the foundation aid increase to hire a part time social worker.