

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	n/a
Reducing class sizes	With a rising population, keeping stability in class sizes at the elementary level	Community has voiced concern that with a rising population in our K-2 building, the need to keep class sizes consistent.	104,530
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Providing instructional support for teachers as we transition to a block schedule at Valhalla High School	Community has voiced concern regarding the increase in instructional minutes per period and ensuring teachers have the instructional tools to make the transition	64000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Providing more SEL support to our younger students while providing leadership skills to our older students	parents voiced concern over opportunities to connect our older students with our younger students to help build social emotional programs	32000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Ensure our students with disabilities are reading at or above grade level	parents voiced concern over reading support and how we are providing reading support to kids.	70,530

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 (\$)
Middle School Support	Provide separation of the middle and high school within a shared building	Community has voiced concern over the current model of a shared Assistant Principal for both the middle and high school. Additionally, the community has voiced the need for a separate identity at the middle school level as middle school students need different support.	145,000
School Safety	Provide school resource coverage in all our schools through a contractual agreement with law enforcement	Community voiced concern over recent world events and ensuring we are prioritizing safety 5 days a week for our	180,000

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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 (\$)
		school community.	

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)**

Since the Governors proposal to restore foundation aid to school districts, we have held public comment during each Board of Education meeting. Through this public comment we prioritized the community feedback into six areas. The first is school safety. Based on recent world events, the community has been very vocal in asking the district to investigate school resource officers within our school buildings. The 22-23 school year brought school resource officers to our building 3 days a week. With the increased foundation aid, we will be moving to a 5 day a week model. The second area was middle school support. The community has been very vocal about the disservice our current model of a shared assistant principal is doing to our students. The community stressed the importance of a middle school identity within a shared building. The increase to foundation aid will allow us to hire a separate middle school assistant principal. The third area is providing resources to our students with disabilities. Specifically, parents voiced there frustration with the lack of reading support for our students with disabilities. Resource room was not addressing the specific reading needs of our students. The increase to foundation aid will allow us to hire a reading teacher. The fourth area is social emotional support. The community voiced concern over the social emotional needs of our students at the elementary level and the potential of using our older students to provide needed to support to our younger students. The increase in foundation aid will allow the district to build a circles leadership program through sweethearts and heroes. The fifth area is providing academic support to students. Parents voiced the need for academic support in the classroom as we move to a block schedule model. The increase in foundation aid will allow the district to continue its work with IDE as a tool to bring more student choice to the classroom setting. The sixth area is reducing class sizes. Parents have voiced concern about the increase in class size at the Kindergarten level due to increase enrollment. The increase in foundation aid will allow the district to hire an additional classroom teacher and aide to keep class sizes at a consistant level.