

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase****Background/Instructions**

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Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

**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	NA	NA	NA
Reducing class sizes	Prior to the pandemic, class size was 25 students in all Kindergarten through Grade 3 classes and 27 for all students in grades 4 and 5. With Foundation Aid monies we have been able to reduce the class sizes for ALL elementary students K-5 to 23. Teachers have been able to provide more targeted, individualized instruction to their students due to the smaller class size. Due to the success of smaller class sizes over the last two school years and the increased Foundation Aid we have decided to maintain the lower class size at the elementary level for 23-24.	We e-mailed the agenda to the entire parent community as well as those taxpayers without school aged children prior to our June 8th, 2023 BOE meeting which indicated that we would be discussing our Foundation Aid Plan publicly during the meeting. During the actual BOE meeting we publicly discussed details of the plan and allowed members of the Board of Education and the public at large to ask any question they had regarding the plan. Following the meeting, and as we do every meeting, we e-mailed Board Notes which summarizes the discussions and approvals of the meeting to our parent population as well as those taxpayers who choose to be on the District e-mail notifications. Additionally, we placed the plan on our website for anyone to review.	\$900,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The additional Foundation Aid funding allows us to maintain support classes in grades 6-11 in Math and ELA for students who are at risk for not meeting State standards. Additionally, the funding allows us to maintain our Math and Science specialists at our elementary schools in order to provide enrichment and remediation to our K-5 students.	We e-mailed the agenda to the entire parent community as well as those taxpayers without school aged children prior to our June 8th, 2023 BOE meeting which indicated that we would be discussing our Foundation Aid Plan publicly during the meeting. During the actual BOE meeting we publicly discussed details of the plan and allowed members of the Board of Education and the public at large to ask any question they had regarding the plan. Following the meeting, and as we do every meeting, we e-mailed Board Notes which summarizes the discussions and approvals of the meeting to our parent population as well as those taxpayers who choose to be on the District e-mail notifications. Additionally, we placed the plan on our website for anyone to review.	\$400,000

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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 (\$)
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district added an additional guidance counselor to the High School to provide additional emotional support to our students during the 2022-23 school year. This allowed us to reduce the counselor-to-student ratio. During the 2023-24 school year the district will be adding a school counselor for our K-5 students. This will provide increased social-emotional opportunities for all our elementary students. The funding will also allow us to maintain the additional psychologist we hired to support our students social and emotional health. Developed a strong partnership with a New York State approved mental health clinic to expedite psychiatric evaluations for students and families in need, as well as provide individual counseling services.	We e-mailed the agenda to the entire parent community as well as those taxpayers without school aged children prior to our June 8th, 2023 BOE meeting which indicated that we would be discussing our Foundation Aid Plan publicly during the meeting. During the actual BOE meeting we publicly discussed details of the plan and allowed members of the Board of Education and the public at large to ask any question they had regarding the plan. Following the meeting, and as we do every meeting, we e-mailed Board Notes which summarizes the discussions and approvals of the meeting to our parent poulation as well as those taxpayers who choose to be on the District e-mail notifications. Additionally, we placed the plan on our website for anyone to review.	\$550,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	This aid allows us to maintain many co-teaching classes in grades K-12 to support students with disabilities on-site. Co-teaching provides one full-time general education teacher plus one full-time special education teacher in each class. Our school district has exceeded NYS requirements for students in need of ENL services. The additional funding will be utilized to maintain and provide additional ENL support periods for identified ELLs that demonstrate a need for additional academic support, emotional support, and/or have been identified as at-risk. ELLs that present a need for additional ENL support periods outside of the state-mandated requirements will be provided with additional support through our sheltered/intensive ENL programming options and/or via our Learning Center(s). Additionally, we will be hiring a full-time ENL Facilitator during the 23-24 school year. This facilitator will meet with families new to the district, evaluate students ENL status to determine appropriate class placement and su	We e-mailed the agenda to the entire parent community as well as those taxpayers without school aged children prior to our June 8th, 2023 BOE meeting which indicated that we would be discussing our Foundation Aid Plan publicly during the meeting. During the actual BOE meeting we publicly discussed details of the plan and allowed members of the Board of Education and the public at large to ask any question they had regarding the plan. Following the meeting, and as we do every meeting, we e-mailed Board Notes which summarizes the discussions and approvals of the meeting to our parent poulation as well as those taxpayers who choose to be on the District e-mail notifications. Additionally, we placed the plan on our website for anyone to review.	\$350,000

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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 (\$)
Tax Levy	During 2022-23, the district kept the tax levy increase flat from the prior year, and flat for seven of the last nine years. During the 23-24 school year the tax levy limit will be significantly below our cap due to the additional Foundation Aid funding.	We e-mailed the agenda to the entire parent community as well as those taxpayers without school aged children prior to our June 8th, 2023 BOE meeting which indicated that we would be discussing our Foundation Aid Plan publicly during the meeting. During the actual BOE meeting we publicly discussed details of the plan and allowed members of the Board of Education and the public at large to ask any question they had regarding the plan. Following the meeting, and as we do every meeting, we e-mailed Board Notes which summarizes the discussions and approvals of the meeting to our parent poulation as well as those taxpayers who choose to be on the District e-mail notifications. Additionally, we placed the plan on our website for anyone to review.	400,000

**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)

We e-mailed the agenda to the entire parent community as well as those taxpayers without school aged children prior to our June 8th, 2023 BOE meeting which indicated that we would be discussing our Foundation Aid Plan publicly during the meeting. During the actual BOE meeting we publicly discussed details of the plan and allowed members of the Board of Education and the public at large to ask any question they had regarding the plan. Following the meeting, and as we do every meeting, we e-mailed Board Notes which summarizes the discussions and approvals of the meeting to our parent poulation as well as those taxpayers who choose to be on the District e-mail notifications. Additionally, we placed the plan on our website for anyone to review.