

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	Decentralize and double instructional support provided on campus with the increase of instructional leaders. Instructional support for educators is provided in the form of coaching, classroom visits and professional development. Educators have daily access to our instructional leaders. Hire additional staff to offset the increased enrollment in recent years and reduce class sizes. Emphasize the importance of academics in college and career by adding school counselors to the high school's college and career center. This connection is likely to increase engagement and attendance as it will provide more opportunities for students to find their path beyond high school.	7% of our community indicated this is the most immediate need	\$250,000
Reducing class sizes	Hire additional staff to offset the increased enrollment in recent years and reduce class sizes.	18% of our community indicated this is the most immediate need; funds will be used to increase staffing to reduce class sizes	\$15,865,060
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Decentralize and double instructional support provided on campus with the increase of instructional leaders. Instructional support for educators is provided in the form of coaching, classroom visits and professional development. Educators have daily access to our instructional leaders.	32% of our community indicated this is the most immediate need; community expressed need for quality educators and providing support for educators	\$2,150,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Research shows that positive social emotional health improves student achievement. Hire additional support staff to help students with development of social skills (such as self-regulation and conflict resolution) and connecting families to resources in the community.	22% of our community indicated this is the most immediate need	\$458,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Increase staffing to increase support for English language learners and students with disabilities. Expand programs at all schools for English language learners and	12% of our community indicated this is the most immediate need	\$1,577,200

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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 (\$)
	students with disabilities to meet state and federal requirements and to minimize the transition between schools for students when program changes are required.		

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 (\$)
Health and Safety	Increase school safety personnel to support with supervision and addressing behavioral issues. Enhance the quality of HVAC conditions to improve comfort and decrease absenteeism.	The community expressed the need for safer schools.	10,489,950
Food	Improve our ability to provide meals to our students. Meals and snacks are provided for 100% of our students during the school day and during our after school programs. When the basic needs of our students are met, it helps remove barriers to learning.	The community highlighted the importance of providing meals to our students given the financial needs of some of our families.	850,000

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)**

- Two methods were used to solicit feedback: Thought Exchange survey and two (2) virtual focus groups (June 21, 2023, and June 22, 2023). Most of our feedback from stakeholders was received through the ThoughtExchange survey (941 participants). In addition to the survey, stakeholders were invited to participate in focus groups in the evening on June 21 and during the day on June 22. There were not any participants in the focus groups.
- Feedback opportunities were promoted via School Board meetings, SchoolMessenger, the district website, district Facebook, Infinite Campus (using the district communication module), signs in buildings, announcements at school events, and emails to staff. In the Thought Exchange survey, stakeholders were asked the following questions: Please check which of these presents the most immediate needs. What are the most important ways our state foundation aid funds can be utilized to support students who are struggling academically or address social-emotional learning health?
- Some common recommendations or suggestions: Keep class sizes low School safety/addressing misbehavior: Suggestions include alternative schools, and holding students accountable in a way that reduces repeated behavior. Provide field trips
- The following recommendations were not reflected in the plan above: Addressing misbehavior: Other funding sources are used to support this need. Additionally, we revised our Code of Conduct and plan to provide additional support and training for our community during the implementation phase to reduce misbehavior. After-school and summer support: Other funding sources are used to support our after-school and summer programming to provide targeted support and enrichment opportunities.