

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

Page Last Modified: 06/17/2023

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/29/2023

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 be investing funding in programs to support students in both core academics and in courses of study to meet student interest. To support student interest, Foundation Aid funding is being used to continue course offerings in Career and Technical Education (CTE), career exploration, exposure, and experience programs K-12, hosting a college fair for high school students, providing transportation to career programs and increased investment in athletic programs. Credit bearing dual enrollment courses will be purchased at no additional fee to students. In addition, the District will continue to invest in academic programs by increasing the availability of certified teachers and support staff in areas of student need. AIS, Learning Center, and other programs will have additional staff to provide more targeted instruction and support Parent and community support is a key component to increasing student engagement. Providing communication structures, parent/community activities, open and free facilities, and athletic programs provides a direct connection between school and community.	Strategic planning survey indicated support for highest priority for Academic knowledge and skill such as critical thinking, working in teams and communication skills. In addition the survey indicated students in the secondary school are less engaged. Title I survey indicated that more support staff are needed to provide small group instruction for struggling students. Approximately 20% of strategic plan survey indicated the need for community engagement in activities at school	10500000
Reducing class sizes	he District is using the increase in Foundation Aid to maintain staffing at all school levels. This will allow for continuing classrooms with smaller class sizes than the maximum number of students per classroom. The district will also use funds to enhance recruitment efforts to hire and retain the most effective staff to work with our students	Strategic planning survey indicated support for highest priority for Academic knowledge and skill such as critical thinking, working in teams and communication skills. Title I survey indicated that more support staff are needed to provide small group instruction for struggling students	140000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core	The District is using a portion of the Foundation Aid increase to support professional development for teachers,	Title I survey indicated that more support staff are needed to provide small group instruction for struggling students	33000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/29/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
academic subject areas	instructional supplies, and curriculum development at schools. Funds will be used to implement continuation of extended day learning programs such as Academic Work Study (AWS) for high school students.		
Addressing student social-emotional health	Keep staff funded through stimulus in the areas of elementary guidance and social work	Strategic planning survey indicated support for highest priority for Academic knowledge and skill such as critical thinking, working in teams and communication skills. In addition, the survey indicated students in the secondary school are less engaged.	130000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	N/A	This area was not reflected in community feedback, and currently we have other resources to support these areas as they are a very small percentage of our population.	0

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 (\$)
Acquisition and Retention of High Quality Staff	Develop competitive salaries and benefits within our North County Region.	Currently the district falls in the bottom 1 or two salary ranges in our BOCES region. Negotiation meetings indicated the need to be more competitive for staff in the middle of their careers.	410,000
Physical Health and Safety/Facility Maintenance	The District is hiring additional custodial staff to address cleaning and sanitizing needs in our buildings. With transition of current cleaning staff, the district will hire additional temporary staff during training periods. Additional supplies and equipment will be purchased.	Strategic planning survey responses indicated the need for improved facilities and open facilities for the community. Staff responses to need for deep cleaning in summer was shared at the end of the year.	10,000

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseUse of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/29/2023

- 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)**

Over the past few years, the district has increased staff with stimulus funds to provide support for struggling learners, social emotional learning, and career planning. We have seen an increase in student leaning and social emotional affect. While this was an impression from our staff and community, we decided to continue to reach out to our community through a strategic planning survey and our Title I survey. We requested feedback through questions. When we reviewed the survey results, we did not receive any feedback about ELL students which makes logical sense due to the limited number of ELL students in our district (<5). We provided support for these students through other funding mechanisms.