

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	0
Reducing class sizes	N/A	N/A	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide direct supplemental instructional support including tutors as well as professional development to teachers to address student learning loss and academic interventions, particularly in early literacy.	Recognition of the importance of trained staff to implement targeted, focused, and dedicated academic interventions.	2,081,770
Addressing student social-emotional health	Additional staff including social workers, and mental health services including streamlined services through the Northwell Mental Health Partnership.	Recognition of the vital need for increased staffing and services to address social emotional learning and mental health interventions.	543,139
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Provide resources to support ELL and special education students including ELL teachers, translation services, therapists, special education tutors, psychologists and materials and services for special education students including instructional technology.	The need for increased services, trained staff, and interventions are vital to support our special education and ELL students.	4,825,634

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 (\$)
Expand instructional opportunities for students	Student enrollment is increasing in core and elective areas at the secondary level. We want to continue to provide current instructional program to all students as well as expand program offerings.	Increased enrollment requires additional resources in core and elective areas at the secondary level to ensure continued access to the full range of the district's instructional program.	483,496

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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)**

The 2023-24 enacted New York State budget included a foundation aid increase of approximately \$7.9 million or 50% over the 2022-23 budgeted foundation aid amount. This increase is an effort to bring our district closer to our full foundation aid allocation. In accordance with Section D10, and resulting from several stakeholder meetings the district developed its plan. The opportunity for discussion and feedback included, 4 budget workshop meetings held over several months, a June 12, 2023 Board of Education meeting and a June 14th ESSA stakeholder meeting. These meetings were attended by faculty, parents, students, and school administrators, and members of the Board of Education. The meetings have a public comment period where stakeholders may offer suggestions and comments. Comments received focused on the support for additional resources for student health and wellness and assisting our students that struggle academically. The district's foundation aid plan focuses on the following four areas: (1) providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subjects through academic services, resources to address learning loss and gaps, academic and mental health data collection measures and services, funding for an elementary STEM teacher, expanded summer school opportunities, and instructional technology tools; (2) addressing student social and emotional health by allocating funding for additional social workers and additional social and emotional support services through the Northwell Mental Health Partnership; and; (3) providing adequate resources to English language learners and students with disabilities by allocating resources to support additional ELL staff, therapists, special education tutors, psychologists and material and services for special education students including instructional technology; and (4) expanding instructional opportunities for students. The district's enrollment is growing in core and elective courses at the secondary level and resources will be used to provide students continued access to the full range of the district's instructional program as well as additional course offerings in science.