

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	Maintaining graduation rates and elimination of the achievement gap is a constant concern that our District addresses	Community has similar concerns	0
Reducing class sizes	Smaller class sizes have always been regarded as important to our District, this additional aid helps to keep similar class sizes and compete for educators with the other districts in the surrounding area.	Based on public feedback the community would like to maintain the smaller class sizes if the district can staff accordingly.	53087.20
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	In order to further eliminate the achievement gap and provide supports for the students who are at risk of not meeting state standards we instituted a reading and math specialist to push into classrooms for additional support.	This is a top priority among the teachers and parents	304413.35
Addressing student social-emotional health	working to replace the loss of a social worker and meet the needs of the families	Based on the survey this is a parental concern to keep kids connected and involved	90446.64
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Additional special education programming and looking to hire / replacements of employees that have left the district.	Based on the survey this is a concern	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 (\$)
Operational Costs	Increases in employee costs, from wages, health care, and other benefits either mandated or contractually obligated	cuts were not what the survey suggested to balance the budget.	305,628
Changing Transportation requirements	Increase costs of buses, fuel and preparation for purchases that are	Approval by the district to prepare for the future of the electric transportation	108,000

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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 (\$)
	state mandated for transportation and charging these vehicles	by increasing the budget for charging stations and changes in the cost of the new buses	

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)**

Through the use of our District Steering Committee, that includes all stakeholder groups, our BOE public comment time, PTO mtgs, faculty and administrative mtgs, we have collected input and ideas regarding the possible use of the additional foundation aid. These ideas included a strong desire by faculty and community to keep small class sizes. Through the use of data analysis, we the district and Instructional Support Team and Child Study Team identified a need for continued intervention in reading, writing and Math at all grade levels. Through the use of engagement surveys a major concern regarding student and staff SEL was identified. An ongoing concern over the past two years has been the staff turnover rate. This has led the district to significantly increase starting wages for many groups as well as adjusting the pay of veteran staff. The increase of the minimum wage and the inflation rate has accelerated the need for these adjustments, causing the district to give a significant increase to the teachers in the middle of their contract.

As the district prepares for the state mandates to meet the zero emissions requirement, we have had to a significant amount to the transportation budget for preparation of the facilities and the additional cost of the electric buses.