

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	N/A
Reducing class sizes	Maintaining class sizes. 10 FTE Elementary teachers hired to reduce class size at the elementary level for social distancing and learning loss. Staff was funded through ESSER II. Additional Foundation Aid allowed District to maintain these staffing levels	Community response to survey (see below) showed this area to be the highest priority for approximately 2/3 of respondents.	1,000,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Addressing learning loss and supporting struggling students with additional staff supports during the school day, after school and in summer programs. 4.0 FTE additional reading teachers, 2.5 FTE additional Teaching Assistants plus hourly afterschool support and staff pay for summer programs.	This item, along with Social and Emotional supports were the second most cited concern in our survey, as well as requests for these supports from District Principals at every level.	2,000,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Social-emotional health increase across the District was a priority for all parents and Principals. Maintain additional 4.4FTE of School Psychologists, 1 additional school counselor and 1.4 Student Assistance Counselors Districtwide, originally hired using ESSER II funds, now able to maintain using additional Foundation Aid	Along with at risk student supports, additional social-emotional support was a major concern for all stakeholders.social-emotional learni	3,000,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Targeted school year and summer support for ENL students and students with disabilities Districtwide. 2.0 additional ENL teachers, 4.0 additional special education teachers 4.5 FTE related services staff, 2 additional reading teachers in Title I locations and targeted summer programs for these populations.	Community concerns for support for all student populations with specific needs requested by Principals and Administrators.	3,500,000

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.

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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 (\$)
Health & Safety/Facilities	New roof for Bardonia Elementary, purchase of buses	While these items were not necessarily identified by the general public, administration identified these as priority items for the health and safety of the students.	2,000,000

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)**

A survey was sent to stakeholders using ThoughtExchange software. Participants answered the following questions: 1. "As we plan for the next school year, what are the most important things our district needs to consider to support all students?" 2. "When thinking about the 2023-2024 school year, please indicate your level of support for providing more social and emotional learning services in our schools.", and 3. The proposed budget is under the tax levy cap. How important is remaining below the tax cap to you?"

Responses to the first question were open ended and resulted in the suggested areas noted above. Responses to the second question had 60% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing to additional support, 20% were neutral and 20% disagreed or strongly disagreed.. Finally, the third question's response was 46% agreed or strongly agreed that remaining below the cap was a priority, 46% were neutral on the topic and 14% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The proposed budget plan was overwhelmingly adopted by the voters, with 78.03% voting to approve the budget.