

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	The District's 5 Year Strategic Plan (2022-2027) Brighter Together, has three goals. Two of these goals address this area, Goal 1 - Graduation Rate, where we are striving to have 90% of our students graduate HS each year and Goal 2 - Reading Proficiency where we strive to make all students proficient readers. The additional Foundation Aid is being used to support new ELA curriculum, teacher salaries and training K-8 (Amplified CKLA & EL Education)..	We have been talking to the community about the strategic plan at numerous public presentations. The Strategic plan and the 2 goals identified for this item were outlined in our annual budget presentations. Our 2023-24 budget specifically identified the items described herein.	250,000
Reducing class sizes	Maintaining low class sizes and lowering others has been a key objective of the district for the past few years. We were able to do some of this with ARP and CRRSA funding as we believed this strategy was key to closing academic gaps. However, we were concerned that this was not sustainable once these grant funds were exhausted. Thankfully, the increase in foundation aid will allow us to keep class sizes Lower thereby enabling better teacher / student engagement.	Our community has been very vocal with Board of Education members about the importance of lower class sizes. We provide weekly updates on class size to our Board and administrators as well as discuss this regularly in Board of education meetings. This is a major point of reference in our BPT presentations to the Board of education and the public.	1,200,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Currently funding through ARP and CRRSA	We have shared ARP and CRRSA funding plans with the community	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	We have increased the number of counselors and social workers significantly. Our goal is that we will regularly screen for students in need and that any child who needs services will receive them promptly from either a school employee or community partner or both. be able to obtain	Our community has expressed concerns about the mental wellbeing of their children and their reliance on the school to provide these supports. They have spoken regularly at Board of Education meetings.	640,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing	Increase the quality and quantity of professional development for both our general education and ENL teachers, while	We currently have over 270 ELLs in our school community. We are hearing from them and community organizations about	480,000

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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 (\$)
homelessness	meeting the NYS requirements for service minutes based on language level. We are also working to improve the communication and engagement between NSCSD and our ENL families / students.	their needs and addressing them through the additional staff we have added.	

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 (\$)
Fiscal Responsibility	Voter Approved Budget	Do not raise our taxes above the Tax Cap. Absorb inflation in benefits, salary cost and general inflation	6,000,000
Safety & Security	SRO in all school Buildings	We expect police protection in all buildings	400,000

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)**

NSCSD is projected to receive \$9.6 of additional foundation aid in 2023-24, an increase of almost 18%. Our community has been very concerned that we have been underfunded (not receiving our full foundation aid). We have prepared our employees and the community for significant expenditure unless the foundation aid was fully funded. A significant amount of the foundation aid increase was used to sustain activities funded by CRRSA. However, the majority of the funding was used to fund contractual salary increases (3.35%), health benefit cost increases (10%) and existing operations where the cost have increased due to inflation. Our voters were very clear that they did not want a significant tax increase and our budget vote received the lowest passing rate in many years. We attribute this to the impact of inflation and increased property assessments (fear of increased school taxes). Had foundation aid increases not been approved by NYS, NSCSD would have been forced to layoff employees, cut programming for students and increase class sizes. While our community and employee groups are very appreciative of the additional funding, please recognize that we have been underfunded for many years. We are only now able to do the things for our students and families that other districts have been able to do for many years.