

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

Page Last Modified: 06/19/2023

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: 07/10/2023

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	Science of Reading: Our goal is to provide students with learning opportunities aligned to the Science of Reading which is a shift from the past practice of balanced literacy commonly used in our classrooms. At least 50% of students in grades K-8 will reach the 60th percentile or more on the iReady Spring reading diagnostic.	On January 31, 2023, a community stakeholder meeting was held to solicit feedback from parents and the community on the use of funding to support our students. Attendance to this meeting was low with 10 participants in total. The session provided stakeholders an opportunity to ask question, gain clarity, and provide ideas for how funding can be used. We heard community concerns about student reading levels and the minimal to no growth noticed on New York State ELA assessments. On January 18, 2023, a student forum was held for students in grades 4-12. The students learned about funds that are being used to support their learning, they provided ideas to help their peers improve in school, some of the ideas learned were to make learning more engaging and less of a time for lecture and to include more experiential learning opportunities.	800,000
Reducing class sizes	Increase classroom FTEs/Master Scheduling: through the master scheduling process, the building leaders found opportunities to reduce class sizes and provide opportunities to be more equitable to support students who are struggling in multiple content areas. An additional 3rd grade section was created an additional 5th grade section was maintained into the school year. 100% of students will receive the academic and SEL attention they need at a ratio of 18:1 or less in our classrooms K-5.	On January 18, 2023, a student forum was held for students in grades 4-12. The students learned about funds that are being used to support their learning, they provided ideas to help their peers improve in school, some of the ideas learned were to make learning more engaging and less of a time for lecture and to include more experiential learning opportunities.. When creating the master schedule, this feedback allowed for the school building teams to prioritize courses based on student feedback.	1400000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Science of Reading: Our goal is to provide students with learning opportunities aligned to the Science of Reading which is a shift from the past practice of balanced literacy commonly used in our classrooms. At least	On January 31, 2023, a community stakeholder meeting was held to solicit feedback from parents and the community on the use of funding to support our students. Attendance to this meeting was	750000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 07/10/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	50% of students in grades K-8 will reach the 60th percentile or more on the iReady Spring reading diagnostic.	low with 10 participants in total. The session provided stakeh`olders an opportunity to ask question, gain clarity, and provide ideas for how funding can be used. We heard community concerns about student reading levels and the minimal to no growth noticed on New York State ELA assessments. On January 18, 2023, a student forum was held for students in grades 4-12. The students learned about funds that are being used to support their learning, they provided ideas to help their peers improve in school, some of the ideas learned were to make learning more engaging and less of a time for lecture and to include more experiential learning opportunities.	
Addressing student social-emotional health	DESSA/Mini DESSA: Our goal is to provide students with early intervention mental health supports based on both qualitative and quantitative data points. All students in the district will be screened in order for school staff to become aware of potential mental health concerns that can be addressed prior to crisis situation.	On January 31, 2023, a community stakeholder meeting was held to solicit feedback from parents and the community on the use of funding to support our students. Attendance to this meeting was low with 10 participants in total. The session provided stakeh`olders an opportunity to ask question, gain clarity, and provide ideas for how funding can be used. We heard community concerns about student mental health as connected to our Office behavior referral and suspesnion data. In analysis of SEL data points we found that there was a small number of students with significant challenging behaviors.	500000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Equitable Resources: Our goal is that our English Language Learners are provided at minimum the similar high-quality learning experiences as their native English-speaking peers. Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, 100% of both Dual Language teachers and English as a New Language Teachers will be provided professional learning opportunities to support the implementation of research-based instruction strategies in the classroom. By September 2023, 100% of Dual Language	Several Bilingual and ENL staff and parent forums were held throughout the school year to help the district understand areas of need and concern with English Language Learner needs. We learned about the inequities that exist in classrooms and the lack of intentional professional learning being provided to both Dual Language and ENL teachers.	1500000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 07/10/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	classrooms will be equipped with equitable instructional resources to support high quality learning experiences.		

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 (\$)
Social & Emotional Programs	We continue to need to support our students who were affected by the Pandemic. This involves after school tutoring, psychological counseling services and family supports. We will open a Saturday program for those students struggling to get their school work completed and having behavior problems.	The community supports this program as it alleviates the strain on those families so that students can avoid being suspended but are required to work on their past due assignments	250,000
Increase pay for our teachers	To recruit, retain and compensate fairly our instructional staff	The community expects our teachers to be compensated fairly. Inflation has hit our staff just as it has every other household. We know that there is still a shortage of qualified teachers and by ensuring that our salaries are highly competitive, we will attract the highest qualified teachers	750,000

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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

Page Last Modified: 07/10/2023

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)**

During our budget presentations for the 23-24 budget year, we outlined this additional aid in public presentations multiple times. We held a budget hearing on Thursday, May 4, 2023. There were no members from the public there. We asked if there were questions from the administrative and board of education members who were in attendance and there were none.

All public comments that we recieved have been aligned with our district priorities and they aided in the development of our District Comprehensive Improvement Plan's Commitments and Strategies. The District Comprehensive Improvement Plan writing process also included parent, student, and staff involvement as their feedback continued to shape the final document.

Teachers, parents and other stakeholders were also presented this information in the various budget presentations and there were no comments