

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	Provide Elementary School Counselor	To help students succeed, create academic plans early; build a resource network for student early	106049
Reducing class sizes	Keeping level lower elementary classes (K-2) at less than 25 students; providing a TA to all classrooms in grades K-3	Provide TAs in all elementary classrooms, add teachers and open new classrooms at elementary level if space available; provide more supports for students and staff at elementary level	652222
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	n/a	n/a	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	Increase support to address social and emotional needs of students	Mental health services for anxiety caused by COVID; address behavioral issues of children; more mental health supports; social and emotional health is a big concern	412090
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Increase staffing & contractual support & tuition for students with disabilities	meet the academic needs of students with disabilities; more special education staff in each school building to allow students to attend their	1584108

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 (\$)
Support for Athletics Program	increased support for Football team based on student participation	Qualified and Committed Coaches for Sports teams	3,823
School Safety & Security	Provide additional security monitors at Middle School and all Elementary Schools	Security officer in EVERY school should be essential; Safety measures in all schools; Middle school needs more security	497,410
Playgrounds & outdoor classrooms	update playgrounds and provide	If it is possible, use funds to provide	300,000

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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 (\$)
	outdoor learning areas	more equipment for playgrounds and outdoor spaces to support positive student interactions during recess times; sunshades for outdoor classrooms to help student connect with their environment	
STEM & CTLE	provide more STEM courses & provide enough funding for CTE so all students that wish to enroll at BOCES Career & Technical Institute can	Provide more STEM courses; Increase STEM	661,924
All students receive school meals regarding ability to pay	Maintain budget in general fund to cover negative student balances in food service accounts	provide food to economically disadvantaged students; provide meals to homeless students; provide food for students that can't afford cost of meals	100,000
Technology for students	Provide one-on-one Chromebooks and technology services to all students	Keep up with larger districts regarding IT; provide IT resources to all students; keep up to date with technology; more technology	452,411
Cover cost of Tuition of College credit bearing courses taught at high school	ensure all students can earn college credits for college level courses taken at high school	higher education; use funds to pay for AP exams & college courses for students	225,000
Assistant Principal at Elementary School	provide support to largest elementary school	more support needed at elementary schools to address student behaviors	175,828

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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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 issued to the community (teachers, administrators, staff, parents and other community members) asking them to provide the school district with priority areas for budgeting for the foundation aid increase. The results indicated priority areas are:

- mental health supports,
- addressing social and emotional needs of students,
- increasing budget for special education (including adding classrooms),
- providing supports to elementary schools (administrator support, decreasing class sizes, addressing behavioral issues, providing lower level classrooms with Teaching Assistants)
- increase STEM opportunities
- outdoor learning spaces
- increased school security
- allow all students opportunity to earn college credits
- provide dedicated athletic coaches
- increase technology devices (one-to-one program) and IT support
- free meals for all students
- maintain tutor service
- keep bus monitors
- fund library materials
- provide music education

The priority areas that were not funded with the foundation aid increase are:

- free meals for all students (district is applying for community eligibility so this is not necessary to fund through general fund)
- maintain tutor service (budget without foundation aid increase provides tutors)
- keep bus monitors (budget without foundation aid increase provides bus monitors)
- fund library materials (budget without foundation aid increase provides library materials)
- provide music education (budget without foundation aid increase provides robust music program)