

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

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Page Last Modified: 05/24/2023

**Background and Instructions**Background

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: 06/29/2023

**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	Purchase new science textbooks that meet new science standards. Purchase technology to provide 1:1 devices in grades K-12 that meet student needs. Improve network stability and loading speeds.	During zoom community forums the community and staff have expressed concerns about students readiness to learn and engagement after the pandemic. We have seen a decline in our results and the want us to return to pre-covid performance levels.	314,283
Reducing class sizes	Reduce student teacher ratios and class sizes in MS science, MS Library and HS library.	We had reduced staffing in these areas to meet budget constraints. The community supported the reinstatement of these positions during open forums specific to budget this spring.	103,040
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Increase reading staffing to increase student access with the ultimate goal of reduce the number of students reading below grade level. Providing tutoring and summer school programs to reduce summer learning regression, provide at risk students a head start to the fall curriculum and provide credit recovery for students in grades 6-12.	During zoom community forums the community and staff have expressed concerns about students reading levels after the pandemic. We have seen a decline in our results and the want us to return to pre-covid performance levels.	278,292
Addressing student social-emotional health	We have increased psychologist and counselor staffing to reduce staff to student ratios. Provide the Positive Behavior Intervention System to improve classroom and school climate.	We had two significant incidents in the spring of 2022 which lead to community forums about student safety and mental health. The community was very vocal about the level of services to students. The community has also expressed a need to address	171,102
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Increase special education staffing to reduce student teacher ratios.	During zoom community forums the community and staff have expressed concerns about students reading levels after the pandemic. We have seen a decline in our results and the want us to return to pre-covid performance levels.	51,955

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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Page Last Modified: 06/29/2023

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 (\$)
Pre Kindergarten classes and school readiness.	We are adding a 4 year old class so that all interested families may send their 4 year old to preschool. NYS funding only provides for 2 classes, we have added a 3rd to give all students the opportunity.	The community has expressed a desire to have all students receive the same readiness programs prior to kindergarten. This has occurred during open forums.	85,000
Transportation for all	Provide transportation for all PreK students.	The community has expressed a desire to have all students receive the same readiness programs prior to kindergarten. This has occurred during open forums.	105,000
School safety	Increase presence of law enforcement on school grounds.	During community forums in spring of 2022 and winter of 2023 the community has expressed a desire to have an SRO or school liaison officer. This was verified by a survey to the community.	80,000

**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)**

The Gananda school district holds public forums throughout the year. While the forums often have stated topics, each meeting provides an open discussion period for community members to raise topics or ask questions that are important to them. These forums are held with board members and the school superintendent present so that the leadership can discuss concerns or ideas with the community. This has been implemented because BOE meetings do not allow for dialogue between the Board and community.

During these discussions we have frequently discussed that Gananda gets significantly less aid than other districts, has low property wealth and high taxes. The result is that our spending per pupil is lower than all other districts of similar size in our BOCES. We have been lobbying for an increase so that we can support programming and services at levels similar to other districts. While this additional aid does not solve the problem it allows us to continue programs implemented with ESSER, CARES, GEER and ARP funding.

With the loss of these funding streams our community is supportive of the use of funds to maintain these programs.