

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

Page Last Modified: 06/20/2023

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: 06/20/2023

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	The budget includes programming for grades 7-12 summer school to address student performance needs; the purchase of educational technology for all students to aid in educational interaction between students and their teachers; and new assessment tools including instructional staff development to better identify students at risk.	Members of several stakeholder groups expressed interest in this area.	500000
Reducing class sizes	Additional staff have been hired and class sizes will be kept at or below traditional levels to promote quality instruction and assist with social/emotional needs.	Members of the staff, administration, and community provided input regarding class sizes. The district filled positions vacated due to retirements and provided five additional instructional positions to reduce/maintain class sizes and support instruction.	1000000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The proposed budget includes: Resources to support innovative instructional programs and opportunities for students; The 2023-24 education plan continues the excellent course offerings and extracurricular activities that have helped to make New Hartford one of the leading districts in the state and nation; Resources to support and enhance curriculum such as professional learning opportunities and materials for K-12 educators; State Education Department initiatives and Curriculum Review and Development Cycle for kindergarten through grade 12 mathematics; Opportunities for high school students to receive additional learning support; The addition of a social worker to support student services and the social, emotional and mental health of students; Instructional support and coaching for elementary classroom teachers; curriculum support specialist in math/science; and technology integration specialist K-12.	Teachers, parents, and other stakeholders support the District's Curriculum initiatives.	1100000
Addressing student social-	The budget includes the addition of a	Board of Education, District Administration,	600000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/20/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
emotional health	school psychologist, social workers, and counselors to support student services including social emotional needs students. This ensures that there are now multiple counselors/social workers available in each school building. It includes continued participation with connected community schools partnership and participation with BOCES programs.	and employee groups, parents, community members expressed interest in the District allocation funds to address student/staff social emotional health.	
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The budget provides resources to support all students including ELL, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness.	Stakeholder groups support the District allocating adequate resources to support these areas.	172346

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 (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

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)

Based upon discussions and public comments from parents, teachers, and community members at multiple public Board of Education and Committee meetings, PTA and other parent group meetings, and through the budget planning process this past year, the District plans to utilize foundation aid to address district-wide needs and to support the instructional program and students as indicated above. This will also allow the district to support innovative initiatives and continue to provide exceptional educational programs that enable our students to excel as lifelong learners and leaders with minimal impact on the tax levy. This plan has been communicated at public meetings and is posted on the district webpage.