

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	2 graduation coaches and a secretary stipend to work with students on attendance and improving grades, as well as mental health support	This was not identified as an area of concern by survey respondents; however district administration believes it to be of the highest importance. The success and safety of our students is the top priority.	237371
Reducing class sizes	N/A	This was requested by many respondents to the survey; however, all class sizes are within the target levels set by the board of education. Many are well below the target levels	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	7 Math & Reading AIS Teachers; 4 Teacher Assistants; 1 Instructional Coach to provide academic support. These positions were previously funded by grants and now moved to the general fund.	All of these positions were identified as priorities in the stakeholder survey	1047246
Addressing student social-emotional health	2 music teachers; 3 school counselors; 1 dean of students; 1 social worker to address the social/emotional needs of our students	Many respondents to the survey asked for more social emotional supports for our students	657520
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Residential tuition payments for SWD; increased special ed programming at BOCES; increased special ed programming in-district	Tuition not identified by survey respondents, but necessary to address the needs of a special ed student. Additional teacher aides were requested by many survey respondents.	1931951

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 (\$)
Communication	Hire 1 assistant public relations specialist to increase coverage of district events and improve community outreach	Not identified by survey respondents but deemed necessary by the board of education	54,988

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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 (\$)
Safety/Security	Purchase a campus-wide notification system to improve security in all buildings	Improved safety was identified as a need by many survey respondents	2,964,462
Address all areas of student need	Cover contractually-obligated salary increases for all employees in order to retain and recruit highly-qualified educators and staff	This was the #1 priority by survey respondents	1,151,214

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)**

Stakeholder input was sought through a survey. An email was sent to all staff that included a link to the survey, asking them to participate. A link to the survey was also included in the district's monthly newsletter seeking input from all community members. 129 responses were received. Many respondents requested the hiring of more classroom teachers in order to reduce class sizes. District administration analyzed current and projected class sizes. Every classroom is within the target levels set by the board of education and many are well below those levels. It was determined that additional classroom teachers are not needed at this time. Furthermore, hiring new positions may not be sustainable going forward.

Mental health supports were identified as a need by several respondents. With funding from federal covid relief grants, we now have a psychologist, counselor and social worker in every school building. We plan to maintain all of these positions even after the federal funding ends. We are not in a financial position to add additional staffing beyond those already added.

A few respondents requested that we hire more special ed teachers so that there is at least one at every grade level in every building. We currently have that at 4 out of the 5 elementary buildings. And the one building that doesn't have it is only 1 teacher short of meeting that request. That building has not requested an additional special ed teacher, but if funds become available in the future, that will be considered.