

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	The goal is to create opportunities for students to receive additional academic support outside of the school day. This would include allocating funding for afterschool tutoring for students at risk of not passing gateway regents exams and/or classes at the Jr/Sr High level.	Students, teachers and parents felt that the need for tutoring was a priority. We will use additional foundation aid funds to support this work and create a tutoring plan for grades 9-12.	20000
Reducing class sizes	The goal is to keep elementary classes below 20 per teacher and secondary classes between 22-25 per teacher. With the drop off of CRSSA and ARPA funding , this required us to use the additional foundation aid to continue to support the number of positions added with those funding sources.	All stakeholders unanimously agreed that keeping class sizes to a minimum was a priority and that it would help with management of students and increase student achievement.	252229
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The goal is to early identify the students who are at risk of not meeting learning standards. The district has begun a data driven protocol using local and state assessments as well as teacher input to better identify the needs of each student.	The feedback received praised the district's Academic Intervention Supports and encouraged us to continue to allocate funds in this area. Funds will be used to support personnel, professional development, and supplies and materials.	317648
Addressing student social-emotional health	Addition of a 1.0 FTE SEL professional at primary school; addition of a .5FTE Dean of Students to Jr/Sr High; purchase of additional SEL materials and supplies	All stakeholder groups unanimously felt that our students SEL needs were of the highest priority. Therefore, we added a counselor position into the general fund that was previously created and funded using CRSSA funds. This position was reallocated to our primary school with a focus on proactive teaching of social skills. We also added a .5FTE Dean of Students to assist counselors and administration in the immediate response to student behaviors and needs. We will use additional funds to purchase flexible seating, SEL teaching tools and resources.	486012
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The 2023-2024 budget will see the addition of a .5FTE Special Educator for Jr/Sr High in order to meet the needs of our SWD and/or homeless students. (We currently do	Meeting the individual academic or SEL needs of SWD and/or homeless students is a priority in our district. Our stakeholder feedback included this commitment from	280353

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	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	not have any ELL students).	students, parents and teachers.	

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 (\$)
Additional Teaching & Learning Materials	Update classroom teaching and learning materials (increase teacher supply budgets) or support special project requests	Students and Teachers felt that there was a need to increase classroom teaching and learning supplies and materials and/or upgrade to more relevant titles or tools. This includes additional classroom libraries or text titles, addition of ipads and chromebooks. The spending in this line would increase teachers' classroom budget which has not been increased in over ten years.	103,500

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)

Our district used a variety of approaches to secure recommendations and suggestions for our additional aide. A district wide survey was conducted using Microsoft Forms and it was sent to all faculty and staff, administration, parents, district residents and students in grades 7-12. Additionally, teachers had the ability to propose special projects or purchases to enhance teaching and learning in their classrooms. Teachers conducted classroom conversations with students and lists were generated and shared with the administrative team. The administrative team then reviewed the responses and categorized into priority areas as noted above. The majority of suggestions and requests were included in the 2023-2024 budget. There were two major ones that were not included. First, additional teaching personnel was requested. Due to our ability to keep class sizes low, adding additional personnel was determined to not be needed and not sustainable for our district. A School Resource Officer was also suggested but it was decided to create the .5FTE Dean of Students due to contractual obligations and the ability for this position to go beyond the role of an SRO.