

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 district has increased enrollment in Career and Tech and PTech programs by 30% to accommodate students with career goals in the trades and therefore increase graduation rates. In addition, the district is investing an additional 25% in UPK funding to contribute to early learning benchmarks and reducing the achievement gap.	Sixty-four percent of all respondents rated increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap as very important. Twenty-seven percent rated this as somewhat important and 9% rated it as not important.	255000
Reducing class sizes	In order to maintain a ratio of no more than 20:1 in all elementary classrooms, the district is hiring another primary school teacher.	Fifty-five percent of all respondents rated reducing class sizes as very important. Forty-five percent rated this as somewhat important and 0% rated it as not important.	80000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	In addition to the ARP and CRRSA funding for this purpose, the district is increasing its summer school and summer enrichment budget in order to enhance the federal funding in 2023 and then continue with the programming after the grants have ended.	Eighty-six percent of all respondents rated providing academic supports for students as very important. Fourteen percent rated this as somewhat important and 0% rated it as not important.	50000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district is hiring a second social worker. This will reduce the caseload from 1:2000 to 1:1000.	Seventy-seven percent of all respondents rated addressing student social-emotional needs as very important. Thirteen percent rated this as somewhat important and 10% rated it as not important.	80000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District is hiring an additional ELL teacher to support additional resources to ELL students. The District has increase the special education budget for Boces and outside placements, as well as in-district supports. Additional bus drivers are being hired to transport an increase in homeless students, and the additional social worker will work with and support our homeless families.	Fifty-nine percent of all respondents rated providing resources to ELL, SpEd and students experiencing homelessness as very important. Twenty-seven percent rated this as somewhat important and 10% rated it as not important.	330000

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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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 (\$)
Security	The District will be hiring an additional School Resource Officer to ensure district-wide coverage in case of emergency. The SROs are responsible for safety instruction and relationship building with all students.	The question of security was not part of the stakeholder questionnaire.	100,000
Technology	The District will be purchasing an additional 750 Chromebooks for students with the increased Foundation Aid funds.	The question of technology was not part of the stakeholder questionnaire.	200,000
Offset Inflation	Due to a projected increase in inflation of 5-8% and a tax levy factor capped at 2% the District is using the increase in Foundation Aid to mitigate the tax levy.	Thirty-seven percent of all respondents rated offsetting the rise in taxation and school taxes as very important. Thirty-two percent rated this as somewhat important and 41% rated it as not important.	500,000

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 District created a survey requesting input from the community regarding the use of additional Foundation Aid. We mentioned that the survey would be available in our budget hearing presentation and on the front page of the district website. The survey asked respondents to indicate the importance of each of the above priority areas as well as suggest any additional recommendations for the use of funds. The written responses included the importance of social emotional health, lowering the cost of school lunch, increasing anti-bullying programs and increasing funds for special education services. One respondent suggested bringing in subject matter experts to teach real-world material.

The District is waiting for additional state guidance on universal free meals and already has funds for anti-bullying programs, which are always being assessed for improvement. Bringing in subject matter experts is a suggestion that the District is willing to explore and may include in the future.