

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	NA	NA	NA
Reducing class sizes	Retain existing positions and add additional staff. This will keep class sizes at their current level or lower. Addition of teachers in 9-12 to increase programming in technology, computer science, and engineering. This will allow the district to keep smaller student to teacher ratios in classrooms at the elementary and middle school level. At 9-12 maintain or increase the number of course offerings in the aforementioned areas.	Several comments indicated that smaller class sizes and additionally academic intervention services would support students, especially as students are still experiencing the impacts of COVID learning loss. Other comments indicated that providing an array of high school courses would improve student engagement.	747106
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Increase support for students at the elementary level who are not achieving in mathematics. Support the implementation of a new math curriculum focused on equity. Improve the AIS services and tier 1 instruction in mathematics. Improve the opportunity to learn for all students and increase student achievement in math.	Comments noted the need for more academic support for students.	110000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Increase the number of summer hours for mental health providers (social workers, guidance counselors, and psychologists). Increase the availability of mental health support staff to help students and families over the summer when school is not in session. Provide services to more students during the summer. Add a dean of students to the elementary school. Increase the individualized support provided to students, increase family engagement, improve the coordination of student supports and social emotional learning. Increase student's social emotional wellness and success in school (specifically reduction of time students spend out of class for behavioral issues). Improve school safety and connection to local law enforcement agencies. Add an SRO in each building.	The survey indicated that students are struggling with mental and behavioral health. Many comments specifically asked for the addition of mental health supports for students in district. The survey noted that elementary students are still struggling with social emotional learning as a result of the insolation that occurred during the pandemic. Numerous comments mentioned the addition of SROs to all three schools to help with students feeling safe.	511000

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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 (\$)
	Increase students sense of safety in school and increase the supports and services we can provide to students and families. Improve coordination of district mental and behaviour health supports and improve the coordination of district services with embe		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	NA	NA	NA

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 (\$)
Cover cost increases	Cover increased costs associated with charter school tuition. Keep up with increasing costs of charter school. Allow other money to be used for programing for students in Solvay. Cover the costs of increasing contractual benefits. Allow for funds to be used for other programing that is directly impactful for students.	Comments indicated that maintaining existing programing and services is important.	950,000
Professional Development for Staff	Improve tier 1 instruction in core areas. Improve students' opportunity to learn. Increase student engagement in learning and outcomes.	Indicated a need to support teachers in adjusting instructional practices to support all students.	50,000

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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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 increase in foundation aid was discussed in public sessions at the board of education meetings to inform the community and allow for feedback. Additionally, the increase in foundation aid was discussed at various in-district meetings with leadership teams and teacher leaders. Lastly, the district developed a survey requesting feedback on the use of stimulus funds. This survey was distributed through ParentSquare to all staff and families, placed on our district website, and shared via the district's social medial platforms.

The main themes of the survey indicated the need for more academic and mental health support. Specifically keeping classess small, hiring or retaining current staff, and supporting small group academic intervention services was offent mentioned. Many comments noted that students are strugglign with mental and behavioural health and that the district needed to increase supports. Comments also spoke to general school safety and the need for SROs. The survey reall showed many responses related to the previously mentoned themes. A few comments suggested th need for more afterschool and summer programing. The district added summer programing through the use of other funds (down stream 21st century funding and stimuls funding). The district is actively pursuing a community school grant to support more after school and summer programming.