

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	N/A	N/A	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The district will create a Transitional kindergarten staffed by one full-time teacher and one full-time aid to support students who would otherwise have been held back for a year, or retained in KG. The program will serve up to 12 students seen as being at-risk for retention of being held back.	Teachers and administrators expressed concern about the number of students who were at the younger end of the eligible range, had no preschool experience, or were behind developmentally. Those students are typically retained in KG or 1st, and data shows they become more likely to drop out later in their school careers.	235000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district will add two full-time social workers to address some of the student needs that were currently addressed through grant-funded services. Each social worker will serve up to 40 identified students, including providing behavioral support and acting as a liaison for community agencies and services.	Several stakeholders expressed concern that grant-funded services were ending as of the close of the school year, while also noting a spike in student social-emotional needs following the unsettled years of the pandemic.	185000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The district is allocating funds to providing specialized summer instruction, as well as to account for an increase in the need for special placements in the coming year. The increase in spending will benefit 5-10 SWDs.	Stakeholders noted an increase in the number of students needing placements outside the district, and those needing additional summer support to support their progress.	449725

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 (\$)
N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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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)**

Feedback on the allocation of the increased foundation aid was obtained as part of the budget development process, through public hearings and presentations at BOE meetings. Although public input was minimal, teachers and administrators did express concern about students continuing to struggle with academic progress and the growing need for Social-Emotional supports as students continue to deal with the disruption brought on by the pandemic. The BOE also prioritized using a portion of the foundation aid to keep any tax levy increase to a minimum as our community, which struggles at the best of times, deals with the economic burdens of the pandemic. The district engaged in internal discussions with administrators and teachers in identifying the target areas for new positions and programs, and incorporated that input into making budgetary decisions. This was done at both formal and informal meetings in the months leading up to the draft budget presentation.

The district does not have a problem with class sizes, with most classrooms at 20 students or under. For that reason no additional spending was allocated to this area. Although graduation rate is an area of concern, the district is addressing that issue through realigning class offerings and better streamlining graduation pathways.