

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Background/Instructions**

Page Last Modified: 05/24/2023

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/21/2023

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	Keep grade level and subject level class sizes as low as possible while also offering electives, advanced coursework, academies, and specials	One comment supporting keeping class sizes low. One comment hoping for enhanced science and gifted and talented curriculum.	2957206
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide academic intervention services to assist all students in meeting state learning standards	One comment requesting AIS services for science.	295721
Addressing student social-emotional health	Increase staffing to provide increased social-emotional health service availability for students	No comments related to this subject.	236576
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Serve increasing population of ELL and SWD students	One comment supporting ELL staffing due to increasing population.	754856

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 (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseUse of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/21/2023

- 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)**

An email was sent out to all district stakeholders (parents, faculty, and staff), providing information on the reason for the plan, a link to where the draft plan was located on the district website, and the opportunity and method in which to provide input. The message and website also notes the method (email) to provide feedback at any time, even beyond the public input period.

The district received input from seven people. Summary of the input emails and the district's rationale:

- Two parents commented about increasing field trips. The district is working with building administration and parent teacher organizations to add to field trip funding to increase opportunities, but not as part of foundation aid funds.
- A parent commented about adding a playground at 4-6 building and a teacher commented about bathroom facilities at our athletic facilities. Both of these would fall under a capital improvement project scope, not general fund foundation aid.
- A parent emailed about re-hiring retiring foreign language teacher in order for students to complete bi-lingual certification. The district is actively seeking a replacement teacher. It is not about funding (or the foundation aid plan), it is about the employment pool.
- A teacher emailed about additional opportunities for gifted and talented students, a district initiative for more hands-on learning experiences in science curriculum, and an AIS position at the secondary level in science. Her suggestions have been passed onto the curriculum department and will be considered in future budget years.
- A teacher emailed their agreement with adding teachers to help with class sizes and ELL personnel is a great move as well as we have an increasing population of students that require those services. Both class size reduction and ELL services are included in the foundation aid plan.

We are reaching every parent and every faculty and staff member with our outreach. Based on minimal response, we can only assume that the plan generally suits the needs and best interests of our students, families, and employees.