

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

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**Background and Instructions**Background

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

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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 is increasing funding of targeted enrichment and remedial programs, as well as professional development, science research and electives.	These additions were discussed during budget presentations in February, March and April, as well as increased funding to in-District tutoring programs. The public found this beneficial and is in support of this goal.	\$4,271,329
Reducing class sizes	The District is adding teaching staff for World Languages, Art and Family & Consumer Science.	These additions were discussed during budget presentations in February, March and April. The public found this beneficial and is in support of this goal.	\$441,477
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The District is adding teaching staff for English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Business. While this addresses the priority of meeting state learning standards in core academic subject areas, it also assists in keeping class sizes down.	These additions were discussed during budget presentations in February, March and April. The public found this beneficial and is in support of this goal.	\$1,267,750
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District is hiring 2 new guidance counselors, budgeting for more SEL supplies, participating in a mental health consortium, and increasing spending in the alternative high school. Additionally, student relaxation rooms and furniture are being added, and budgets for students to travel for academic competitions and extracurricular activities are being increased.	These additions were discussed during budget presentations in February, March and April. The public found this beneficial and is in support of this goal.	\$1,463,897
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District is adding staff, which includes an ESL Director position, an ENL teacher, 2 Special Education teachers, increased services for Special Education, increasing curriculum writing for ENL and Special Education, and increasing its offering of Unified Sports.	These additions were discussed during budget presentations in February, March and April. The public found this beneficial and is in support of this goal.	\$2,417,909

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	Hiring of additional security aides to monitor the newly-constructed Security Vestibules in the five high schools.	The community was supportive of this.	250,000
Removal of Name and Imagery of Native American mascot	Complying with State mandate to remove the name and imagery of Native American mascot from the District was important. The District will replace any athletic or extracurricular uniforms that have names or imagery as mentioned in the State mandate. Additionally, all other depiction of images or words on signage, scoreboards, athletic fields, etc. will be removed.	The community was supportive of this.	330,000
Initiate New Medical Assistant Program in CTE	Purchase the appropriate equipment and supplies for the initial year of the new Medical Assistant course being offered in the CTE program.	The community was supportive of this new course.	110,000

**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 public comments from parents, teachers, and others included strong support for what the District was already accomplishing as a whole, and what it planned to do with the increase in Foundation Aid. There were also some very good questions and comments from the public about what some programs were, how they were delivered, and what they offered and accomplished. During public Board meetings, sometimes coincided with budget presentations, allowed the District to receive comments and questions of the planned spending of the additional Foundation Aid.