

**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	Key goal is designing and supervising instructional and intervention strategies to ensure that all students can succeed.	Community ThoughtExchange: Maintain strong academic programs and rigorous coursework; more extended studies, speech, reading resources for ALL students who need extra support.	750000
Reducing class sizes	Key goal is to maintain class sized below 22 at K-15 and protect course offerings high school level.	Community ThoughtExchange: More art and music course offerings; low class size and funding for youngest learners.	950000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Key goal is to fund the development and cost of specialized programs to meet the emerging needs of students.	Community ThoughtExchange: Provide each student coursework that is challenging in order to promote individual growth.	1250000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Key goal is to expand access to mental health supports through the addition of faculty and partnerships with outside agencies.	Public forums: Community request to add mental health support	350000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	No new initiatives identified by the District. See current year initiatives below.	No comments received from the community	0

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 (\$)
Investment in Current Initiatives: Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap	Key goal is to maintain and improve Alternative Instructional Model (AIM) which provides supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	No comments received	550,000
Investment in Current Initiatives: Providing adequate resources to ELL,	Key goal is to provided dedicated resource through the addition of the	No comments received	115,000

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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 (\$)
SPED, and homelessness	Director of Student and Family Engagement who provides direct support to families and students classified as English language learners, students with disabilities; and students experiencing homelessness		
Investment in Current Initiatives: Providing supports for students at risk of not meeting standards	Key goal is to expand targeted administrative and tutoring support to oversee and build academic intervention programming designed to provide supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Community ThoughtExchange: Provide each student coursework that is challenging in order to promote individual growth.	375,000
Investment in Current Initiatives: Addressing student social-emotional health	Key goal is to enhance youth prevention, intervention, social work, and family navigation services at the 3-12 level to improve social-emotional health of students and families	Public forums: Community request to add mental health support	560,000

**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 initiated a community-wide ThoughtExchange on February 15, 2023 asking "What are your top priorities for the 2023-2024 budget?" This exchange was distributed to all community members, teachers, faculty, staff, and high school students. The comments were analyzed and presented at the Community Budget forum on March 22, 2023. At this same community forum, the Foundation Aid Plan and Accountability requirements were presented. Verbal comments received at the forum were also documented.

The District's Foundation Aid Plan was posted on the District's website on March 17, 2023 and a link was embedded in the Budget Newsletter. The Plan was also presented at the Executive Budget Proposal on March 28th. Public comment was invited - yet none was received at that meeting. Additional comments were invited at the meetings on April 11th and May 9th with none received. The District invited additional comments from faculty at the May 2023 faculty meetings. No verbal comments were received at these forums.