

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 | Alternative Learning Pathway, Increase UPK funding to ensure full-day programming | Presented the plan for the alternative learning pathway and was well received. | 225,000 |
| Reducing class sizes | Lower secondary science class size | N/A | 85,000 |
| Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas | Increase K-12 school day by 20 minutes, Update science curriculum to address Next Generation Learning Standards | Community questioned the school schedule and how this would effect arrival and dismissal of students. | 636,000 |
| Addressing student social-emotional health | Contracted Mental Health Services, Increase SRO Services | Request from the community to increase mental health providers or social workers. Request from Board of Education member to consider increasing SRO services to 5-days a week from 3-days a week. | 110,000 |
| Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness | Improve teacher to student ratio for ENL students and Students with Disabilities, Address transportation costs for displaced students experiencing homelessness | Community questioned the cost of contractual transportation to transport displaced students and were shocked by the per day cost of \$449.00. | 670,000 |

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 (\$) |
|--|---|--|---|
| Increase afterschool athletic opportunities for students | Additional athletic coaching positions | Question was raised to consider working with neighboring district to offer additional athletic opportunities. This was reviewed and agreed upon. | 94,000 |
| Address increased technology (IT) support and infrastructure | Replace outdated servers, update classroom computers, hire part-time IT support | N/A | 112,000 |
| Address Transportation Needs | Lease a new school bus, hire bus driver | Community agreed that an additional school bus is needed to assist with increased contractual transportation | 160,000 |

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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 (\$) |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | costs. | |
| Facilities Maintenance | Transfer increased maintenance staff cost from federal funding to general fund, establish preventative HVAC maintenance contracts, increased energy costs | Community felt these positions are needed and a fair wage needs to be offered in order to compete with other work places. | 160,000 |
| Hiring Costs | New required Civil Service Cost from City of Watervliet | N/A | 20,000 |
| Employee Benefits Increase | Employee benefits cost increased with added positions and there was an increase cost presented by providers for the upcoming school year | N/A | 300,000 |
| Debt Service Increase | Increased cost of Bond Anticipation Notes for next year | N/A | 650,000 |

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)**

2023-2024 Budget Planning Schedule:

January 12, 3:00 pm – A-Team Mtg. - Budget Schedule and Documents were shared and discussed with the administrators

January 18, 9:00 am – Grant Budget Review completed with the Business Official, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent

January 24, 9:30 am – P & D Mtg. – District Administrators and building Principals discussed budgets and drafted plans.

February 9, 3:00 pm – A-Team Mtg. – All administrators drafted budget recommendations

February 13, 9:00 am – Drafted the curriculum budget with stakeholders

February 14, 9:00 am – Drafted the special education budget with stakeholders

February 15, 9:00 am – Drafted the athletics budget with stakeholders

February 16, 9:00 am – Drafted the technology, safety, and accountability budget with stakeholders

February 17, 3:00 pm – Reviewed building-level budgets from teachers, support staff, and principals

March 1, 6:00 pm – Held Budget Workshop – Presentation #1 - The community was overall receptive to the presentation and brought up topics for discussion, including mental health, the School Resource Officer, merging athletic programs, and non-aligned staff increases. Parents, board members, teachers, and administrators were in attendance.

March 8, 6:30 pm – PTA Mtg. – Budget Presentation #2 - Another presentation was completed in conjunction with the elementary school PTA meeting. Many more parents and teachers were in attendance. The increased information from the first presentation was appreciated by parents. Feedback included questions about athletics and extending the school day. The meeting was live-streamed for all PTA members.

March 14, 6 pm – BOE Mtg. - Budget Presentation #3 - Additional budget information was presented in conjunction with a Board of Education meeting. Assembly Member John McDonald, who represents the district, joined to share the state of the NYS budget and its impact on our district. In addition to board members, several administrators, teachers, and parents were in attendance. Feedback included dialogue about increased transportation costs, shared services, and regional programs. The board meeting, along with this presentation, was live-streamed for the wider community.

April 4, 6 pm – BOE Mtg. – Final Budget Presentation was given, and limited feedback was shared due to the multiple previous presentations. The board of education adopted the proposed budget. The board meeting, along with this presentation, was live-streamed for the wider community.

Early May - Budget Newsletter was mailed to residents within the school district and hard copies of the proposed budget were available for review by community members in the district office.

May 2, 6 pm – BOE Mtg. with Budget Hearing - A public budget hearing was conducted with limited feedback. All budget presentations and information are available on the school district website. The hearing was live-streamed for the wider community.

May 16, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm – Budget Vote & Election - Affirmative vote for the budget.