

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

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

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: 06/23/2023

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	N/A
Reducing class sizes	The district is hiring 15.3 additional teachers to reduce class size at the elementary level and increase elective offerings at the high school	Stakeholder feedback was positive on this initiative	\$1,530,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The district has added a new Middle School Summer Bootcamp to help prepare struggling Middle School students for next year; the district has also extended the summer Regents prep program for High School students for the 2023-2024 school year. The district also adopted a new ELA program for grades K-5 and hired 2.0 FTE for Instructional Coaches to address learning loss in grades K-5	Stakeholders were in favor of additional supports for students in the summer.	\$1,225,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district has added an additional 5.5 FTEs for mental health support; The district is also moving forward with Responsive Classroom as a school-wide approach to SEL in grades K-5	Stakeholder feedback was positive on this initiative as many students are still experiencing mental health struggles from the pandemic.	\$575,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The district added an additional 2.0 FTEs to expand services for English Language Learners; a new ENL program was also opened at another elementary school in the Levittown School District for the 2023-2024 school year.	Stakeholder feedback was positive on this initiative	\$200,000

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 (\$)
Keeping tax increases to the lowest	Community residents and our Board of	Community feedback through	7,576,517

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/23/2023

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 (\$)
amount possible	Education made it clear that the foundation aid should be used to try and keep tax increases to the lowest amount possible.	stakeholder groups indicated that this was a priority area.	

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)**

We hold regular stakeholder meetings with parent/community representatives, teachers, and administrators to collect feedback on our plans for grants as well as the new foundation aid. Information is also shared publicly at Board of Education meetings. Meetings are held periodically each year through virtual methods. At these official stakeholder meetings, as well as at various meetings with community representatives throughout the Levittown School District community, it was shared with the district that a primary concern of residents is that tax increases be kept to the smallest number possible so as to not burden an already burdened community. There is very little industry in the Levittown School District community with the tax base being disproportionately supported by residential homes. Over 90% of the tax burden falls on residents. During these meetings residents made it clear that one of our main priorities with the additional foundation aid increase was to limit a tax increase to the greatest extent possible. Even though the district itself was challenged with addressing inflation-based increases (ex: 14% increase in healthcare costs) we only increased the tax levy by less than 1%, one of our lowest increases ever. This was only possible due to the increase in foundation aid.