

**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 will continually monitor the progress of each student beginning in the freshman year with a goal of increasing the overall graduation rate to 95% to include the June and August Regents examinations. Data teams will be created and overseen by our Assistant Superintendent, High School Principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #3.	150,000
Reducing class sizes	The District will continue to maintain class sizes that are at or below targeted ratios. Special emphasis will be in the areas of ELA and mathematics instruction and supports.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #3.	500,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	The District will maintain and increase our Response to Intervention, Literacy and Mathematics supports for those students who fall below our formative assessments.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #3.	790,340
Addressing student social-emotional health	The District will continue to support the student social-emotional health through the addition of a Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, training in Mental Health First Aid, and a comprehensive review of our District Guidance Plan.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #2.	250,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The District will continue to support the student social-emotional health through the addition of a Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, additional TESOL staff as needed and a comprehensive review of our pupil services.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #4.	275,000

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.

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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 (\$)
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.	Working closely with our community partners (e.g. FOCUS), a set of metrics will be developed to monitor our students perceptual data. Student voice will be increased through their participation on committees, Advisories and as a non-voting member of our Board of Education.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #4.	125,000
School Safety	A comprehensive review of our School Safety Plan will take place to examine the physical, cyber and psychological safety of our students and staff.	Surveys conducted through the Strategic Planning Process supported this priority area and is included in Strategic Plan Goal #1.	75,000

**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)**

During the winter of 2022/23, a Strategic Planning committee was established with representation from several stakeholder groups that included students, staff, teachers, administrators, community leaders, alumni, parents and student support personnel. Although in the midst of their planning process, five areas of strategic priority has been identified that include 1) School Safety, 2) Mental Health and Wellness, 3) Improved Academic Success, 4) Culture, Climate and Inclusivity (DEI) and 5) the development of a K-12 "School to Work" continuum that will better prepare our students for college and careers. Each member of the stakeholder group has been reaching out to their peers for comment and feedback throughout the process. Two surveys were conducted as part of the initial process.

A community survey was developed in late spring and shared with our stakeholder groups specific to the NYSED Foundation Aid requirements.

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;

The survey results aligned with the District Strategic initiatives and included much of what the NYSED has requested our District to prioritize.