

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	Maintain class size levels of 16-18 students per teacher	Overall, the community stated that they like our low class sizes, it's one of the things that makes Newfield, Newfield. They also stated that they like that the school has a small town feel	685439
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Maintain current level of programming at BOCES, particularly in Occupational Education programs, even as costs rise significantly	Some members in the community felt that BOCES services are way too expensive; others stated that BOCES has great programs for students who may not succeed in typical coursework.	160188
Addressing student social-emotional health	Ensure maintaining of 2 psychologists and 3 social workers for the district	Many community members felt that mental health supports are needed right now. Some individuals cited the impacts of COVID on student well being, including climbing suicide rates	195000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Maintain current programs in district and at BOCES for students with IEPs	Some community members stated that special education services are way too expensive; others felt that special education students need us the most.	300358

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 (\$)
Curriculum Development	Creation and maintaining of new curriculum development position. Adding new opportunities for professional development for staff in the summer and during the school year.	Some individuals stated that this was attempted a few years ago by the district and failed. Others stated this was sorely needed. Teachers specifically expressed a great need for more PD opportunities.	141,256

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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 past two budgets have been met with frustration and confusion from the community. In both years, the BOE elected to put forth a budget which raised local taxes beyond the cap, and these budgets were approved by the community.

The District has been on the comptroller's "Fiscal Stress" list for several years and the return of appropriate levels of Foundation Aid will be of great help. Parents, teachers, and community members all agree on this.

Communication and community outreach has been a top priority for district administration during this period. This year, we presented on foundation aid and related budgetary changes at: our annual budget hearing; the public library; the local corner store; to teachers/staff at the Elementary School and the Middle/Senior High School; a public/open session at the Masonic temple; and to a seniors group at the town fire hall. The administration was interviewed on a local radio station, budget newsletters were put up at schools and local establishments, and information was shared on social media and the district website.