

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	Raise the graduation rate by 3% and 3-8 ELA and Math proficiency rate by 5%. A new reading program will be purchased that focuses on the Science of Reading, hiring of K-8 Literacy Specialist, K-8 Math Specialist, 2 data coaches and additional classroom and support teachers. American Research Institute will provide guidance and coaching with the review of K-6 math programs and selecting a new math program.	When surveyed, 85.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this serving as a priority.	8,000,000
Reducing class sizes	The goal is to have all primary classes 20 or under students, intermediate classes 22 or under and all secondary classes 24 or under. This will be accomplished by the hiring of additional classroom teachers.	When surveyed, 86.2% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this serving as a priority.	2,000,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Raise 3-8 ELA and Math scores by 3%. Training of the science of reading for all elementary staff. Additionally the hiring of 2 AIS Reading specialist to reduce the teacher caseload by 5% to provide greater individual support.	When surveyed, 85.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this serving as a priority.	1,000,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Provide additional counseling and wrap around mental health services for students. The goal is to provide a social worker at the ratio 1 social worker to every 300 students from 1:500. In addition each elementary school will have a guidance counselor, parent liaison, and contractual ICAN and Safe School workers and services.	When surveyed, 85.0% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this serving as a priority.	10,000,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Provide appropriate classroom space and programs for both elementary and secondary classroom. The district will create 19 new elementary rooms and 7 secondary classrooms to meet the needs of our SWD populations. This will involve both the hiring and physical construction of space. Additionally ICAN and Safe School services will be contracted to support our	When surveyed, 87.0% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this serving as a priority.	8,000,000

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	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
	homeless population. Furthermore, 2 additional ESL teachers, 1 PT, 5 OT, 13 speech therapist, and 11 psychologists.		

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 (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

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 used an online google form survey to collect community and teacher feedback. The survey was emailed to all stakeholders and posted on the district website for a 2 week period. Furthermore, in the budget process building principals and teachers were included in discussions on the needs of the district. Also, in the budget process families were able to share insights to the Board of Education.

Written parent comments supported the above needs and were focused on reducing class size, meeting the needs of our special education students, and the social and emotional wellbeing of our students.

The majority of increased foundational aid was allocated for the hiring of staff and contractual services with outside agencies to directly work with our students. This year, the district will hire 94 additional teachers, administrators, and support staff. Additionally new contracts are established with Safe Schools, ICAN, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, HMJ Consulting, OnPoint for College and Utica University Young Scholars. Additionally the funding will be used to provide Mohawk Valley CC Dual Credit, math curriculum audit and support, trauma informed education professional development, 3 additional athletic teams.

By the additional foundation aid all major building and district level budgetary request were able to be fulfilled.