

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

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	One of South Huntington's biggest initiatives put forth in the 2023/24 budget development is the return of a 9-Period day at the Walt Whitman High School. The district is making commitments to close achievement/opportunity gaps by offering our students an increase in course offerings via this 9-period day. The Board of Education, as well as, District Administration have stressed at all of our public meetings that the goal is to be able to provide students course offerings which will address the academic needs of all students across the learning spectrum and appeal to their career exploration interests. Eight additional teachers across numerous certification areas will be hired. Instructional areas which South Huntington is offering increased courses include but are not limited to: Art, Business, Social Studies, Family & Consumer Science, Music, Dance, Physical Education, World Language and Technology. Additionally, to address literacy and research skill sets, the district is increasing from a part time to a full time librarian at our 6th grade center.	Throughout the budget development process, the district held various budget sessions / discussions open to the public. These were held on February 15, 2023; March 8, 2023, March 22, 2023, April 18, 2023 (budget adoption), and the final one was the Budget hearing on May 9, 2023. These were live in person, and open to the public, as well as livestreamed to be viewed at home should one wish to do so. Each board meeting had a forum where members from the public who wish to address the Board and the community were invited to do so. For well over a decade, the community has been extremely vocal of their desire for a 9-period day at Walt Whitman High School. The community expressed overwhelming support and appreciation when it was announced that the 9-period day was planned for the 2023-2024 school year. Since the 2018/2019 school year, our graduation rates from 92% to 94%.	\$ 850.000
Reducing class sizes	After receiving the increase in Foundational Aid this year, South Huntington was able to sustain the lower class sizes that the previous year's aid increase allowed for by increasing the number of teachers employed, providing further services and support to all students while enhancing programs. Of these teachers, the following subject areas were focused upon: Elementary Education, Mathematics, Social Studies, Technology, Art, Librarian, World Language and Physical Education/Health. Class sizes at the K-5 level are projected to be in the low 20s and at the 6-12 in the mid-20s, providing for a conducive learning	A budget hearing was held on May 9, 2023 to update the community on additional Foundation Aid and the application of that funding. Funding was allocated towards maintaining low class sizes. Stakeholders, especially parents and educators, believed that maintaining low class sizes was critical to addressing lingering pandemic-caused learning loss needs, preventing further regression and providing necessary resources to all learners. During the 2022-2023 year, various types of meeting were held with Stakeholders to review Foundation Aid increase funded areas. Maintaining low class sizes was once again	\$ 5,303,015

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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 (\$)
	and teaching environment for addressing individual student needs and engaging in authentic and collaborative activities. The additional Foundation Aid was also critical in that it helped to offset inflationary spikes in Health Insurance, Retirement System contributions, Workers Compensation, Transportation and Bus Purchases; these are costs that otherwise would have negatively impacted the district's ability to sustain low class sizes.	a priority in targeting academic recovery programs and programs impacting ELL students as well as Students with Disabilities. Examples of Stakeholder meetings and dates include, but were not limited to the following: PTA Council Meetings: October 3, 2022 December 5, 2022, January 30, 2023, March 27, 2023, May 1, 2023 and June 5, 2023. Curriculum Council meetings: September 22, 2022, October 19, 2022 November 17, 2022 January 18, 2023, February 16, 2023, March 15, 2023, April 20, 2023 and May 17, 2023. Budget Development Work Shops, Adoption and Hearing: February 15, 2023, March 8, 2023, March 22, 2023, April 18, 2023 and May 9, 2023.	
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	To address the learning needs of all students, especially those identified as at-risk of not meeting learning standards, increased Foundation Aid was utilized to fully fund eight previously hired staff who were paid for under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant. Increased Foundation Aid funding is also being utilized to further the district's science education resources. A district wide elementary report card committee was formed to revise the report card to better align with state standards. The additional Foundation Aid was also critical in that it helped to offset costs increases in utilities and debt service, which helped to sustain staffing levels for these vital support areas.	A budget hearing was held on May 9, 2023 to update the community on additional Foundation Aid and the application of that funding. Funding was allocated towards maintaining instructional staff who have been targeting learning loss and academic recovery for students in all academic subject areas grades K -12 who are at -risk or currently demonstrating that they are not meeting state learning standards. Stakeholders, especially parents and educators, believed that addressing lingering pandemic-caused learning loss needs, preventing further regression and providing necessary resources to all learners, especially those at risk for not meeting state learning standards, was a key focal point. During the 2022-2023 year, various types of meeting were held with Stakeholders to review Foundation Aid increase funded areas. Once again maintaining instructional staff who were hired to address academic recovery and student at-risk for not meeting learning standards was a priority. Examples of Stakeholder meetings and dates include, but were not limited to the following: PTA Council Meetings: October 3, 2022,	\$ 3,156,077

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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 (\$)
		December 5, 2022, January 30, 2023, March 27, 2023, May 1, 2023 and June 5, 2023. Curriculum Council meetings: September 22, 2022, October 19, 2022, November 17, 2022, January 18, 2023, February 16, 2023, March 15, 2023, April 20, 2023 and May 17, 2023. Budget Development Work Shops, Adoption and Hearing: February 15, 2023, March 8, 2023, March 22, 2023, April 18, 2023 and May 9, 2023. The Elementary Report Card Committee met on the following dates in the 2022/2023 school year: October 13th, October 20th, November 10th, November 17th, December 8th, January 12th, January 19th, February 9th, February 16th, and March 9th. The revised Elementary Report Card was approved by the Board of Education at our May 9, 2023 meeting.	
Addressing student social-emotional health	As a result of the district receiving additional state aid for the 2023/24 school year, we took several steps to address the social emotional issues for our student body. We have been, and continue to be mindful of our student body, and the society in which we live. On a monthly basis at a Board of Education meeting, an update from the district's Wellness Committee, which is comprised of Board of Education trustees, staff, parents and administration, is provided. The committee coordinated a social/emotional learning survey to students in grades 3-12. The district also has a vibrant partnership with Northwell Health to support mental health of our students. Input from these stakeholders directly informed how the increase in Foundation Aid would also be allocated to enhancing student social-emotional health. As a result, the district incorporated into the budget the hiring of two additional Mental Health providers. .	Throughout the budget development process, the district held various budget sessions / discussions open to the public. These were held on February 15, 2023; March 8, 2023, March 22, 2023, April 18, 2023 (budget adoption), and the final one was the Budget hearing on May 9, 2023. These were live in person, and open to the public, as well as livestreamed to be viewed at home should one wish to do so. Each board meeting had a forum where members from the public who wish to address the Board and the community were invited to do so. While the voices of the residents varied across topics, the district only received positive support with regard to the initiatives the district is taking regarding social-emotional health. The district also has a Health and Wellness Committee which is comprised of Board of Education Trustees, a student representative, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Supervisor for Athletics, Nutritional Department staff, as well as our public relations department. They discussed the varying needs of our	\$ 200,000

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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 (\$)
		students and met on the following dates; September 12, 2022, October 28, 2022, December 16, 2022, February 16, 2023, March 16, 2023, and April 20, 2023. Additionally, the District coordinated Social Emotional Learning (SEL) surveys to students in grades 3-12, which were conducted in November 2022 and May 2023.	
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	In addition to increasing staffing with regards to ENL and Special Education, South Huntington School District allocated \$9,100,000 for BOCES special education & occupational education services. This is meant to cover items such as tuition and related services (i.e. Physical Therapy, Occupation Therapy, Speech and SEIT services). This allocation supports programs for many of our students with significant developmental delays, who require specialized placements. Additionally, the district has allocated \$4,000,000 for tuition services related to students with disabilities and / or students with 1:1 nursing needs in accordance with their IEP. The additional Foundation Aid enabled the district to successfully fund inflationary costs increases in student services. Contingent positions have been budgeted to monitor ELL, students with disabilities, as well as students experiencing homelessness and other enrollment needs. We often experience post September 1st, ELL enrollment increases, and new needs from summer CSE meeting	A budget hearing was held on March 8, 2023 to update the community on proposed additional Foundation Aid and the application of that funding. Funding was allocated towards resources targeting learning loss and academic recovery for ELL students, Students with Disabilities, as well as students experiencing homelessness across all academic subject areas grades K -12. Stakeholders, especially parents and educators, believed that providing resources to address learning loss and academic recovery for ELL students, Students with Disabilities, as well as students experiencing homelessness across all academic subject areas grades K -12, was a key focal point. During the 2021-2022 year, various types of meeting were held with Stakeholders to review Foundation Aid increase funded areas. Once again, providing resources to address learning loss and academic recovery for ELL students, Students with Disabilities, as well as students experiencing homelessness across all academic subject areas grades K -12, was a priority. Examples of Stakeholder meetings and dates include, but were not limited to the following: PTA Council Meetings: October 4, 2021 December 6, 2021 January 31, 2022 March 28, 2022 May 2, 2022 June 6, 2022 Curriculum Council meetings: September 14, 2021 October 13, 2021 November 16, 2021 January 11, 2022 March 16, 2022 April 5, 2022 May 18, 2022 Budget Development	\$ 1,100,000

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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 (\$)
		Work Shops, Adoption and Hearing: February 16, 2022 March 9, 2022 March 23, 2022 April 12, 2022 May 10, 2022 The district also had Equity Training dates during teacher prep periods on the following dates in October 2022: 3rd, 4th, 6th, 11th 12th 17th, 18, 24th, 25th; and in December on the 5th, 6th, 9th, 12th, 13th; in January on the 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th; and lastly in February on the 6th, 7th, 13th, and 15th.	

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 (\$)
School Safety & Security	(No Response)	These measures were met with strong support from the PTA and the vast majority of district residents and staff. In addition to PTA meetings, these measures were publically addressed at numerous facilities committee, safety committee and Board of Education meetings.	1,176,000
Reduction in Reserve & Fund Balance Usage	The District has communicated to the public that as part of our goals for fiscal management, we want to reduce the reliance on usage of fund balance and reserves. This additional state aid gave the district the opportunity to reduce this reliance. During the last few fiscal years and budget development cycles, the appropriated fund balance and reserves were as follows: 21/22 Applied Reserves \$2,600,000, and Applied Fund Balance \$4,500,000. 22/23 Applied Reserves \$2,500,000, and Applied Fund Balance \$3,900,000. And for 23/24 budget	At each of our budget workshops, as well as the budget adoption, a clear message was made by the cabinet and Board of Education that we want to reduce this reliance. Throughout the budget development process, the district held various budget sessions / discussions open to the public. These were held on February 15, 2023; March 8, 2023, March 22, 2023, April 18, 2023 (budget adoption), and the final one was the Budget hearing on May 9, 2023. These were live in person, and open to the public, as well as livestreamed to be viewed at home	1,798,122

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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 (\$)
	development, our Applied Reserves were \$1,980,000 and our Applied Fund Balance was \$2,990,000	should one wish to do so. As with all meetings the community was invited to address the Board and regarding this specific issue, there was nothing but acknowledgement or support.	

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)**

One of the key goals of this state aid allocation was for the district to continue to provide opportunity and resources to the student body, but also to be mindful of the taxpayers of South Huntington. This aid increase for the 23/24 school year, again allowed us to offer such relief to our taxpayers, by proposing a levy of 1.5% versus an allowable maximum levy of 2.31%. This budget was developed through the lens of offering our community the financial support they may need during these difficult economic times.

After receiving the increase in Foundation Aid, South Huntington was able to maintain and increase the number of teachers employed, providing further services and support to academic and social-emotional needs of all students while decreasing the overall class size. As mentioned previously we also included in our budget development the return of the 9-Period day at our High School, as well as the proposal to hire additional Mental Health providers to oversee the needs of our elementary students. There was also the ability for us to go from a part time librarian to a full time librarian at our 6th grade center.

As with all board meetings and budget work sessions in South Huntington these matters are discussed publically, and we welcome community input. As community members choose to speak, their suggestions and concerns are carefully considered by the Board of Education. For communication the district also has a routinely updated website, a weekly newsletter, social media platforms, as well as, the "Parent Square" communication app.