

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	The school district will provide additional teachers to support students who are off track for graduation and provide more options for supported credit recovery and summer school for students who are behind in credits. In addition the school district will invest in initiatives and personnel to increase parent/ caregiver understanding of how vital regular attendance is and how to support student academic success. The district goal is to increase the graduation rate at least 5% each year.	31.7 % of community members and 50% of faculty and staff noted that efforts to increase graduation rates were important for the school to focus on. Feedback included the need to provide families with the tools to help students succeed in school.	\$623080.50
Reducing class sizes	Hiring elementary teachers to keep class sizes at a maximum of 19 to allow students to receive more individualized attention and instruction. The District Goal is to increase proficiency rates on 3-8 assessments by 5% each year.	33.3 % of staff and 53.7 % of community members who responded to the survey noted that reducing class size should be a priority	\$623080.50
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide high impact tutoring, for students after school, during school and during the summer to increase academic skills and close gaps. The District Goal is to increase proficiency rates on 3-8 assessments by 5% each year.	85.7% of staff and 70.2 % of community members who responded to the survey prioritize providing support for students who are not meeting or at risk for not meeting standards.	\$623080.50
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district will invest in responsive classroom professional development for elementary classroom teachers, the development of a comprehensive positive behavioral support program, hiring behavioral support personnel and hire mental health professionals to provide additional mental health support. The district will invest in creating more positive and engaging co-curricular activities for students to promote excitement and engagement in school. Additionally, the district will invest in a mentoring program to provide connections between older and younger students to foster a sense of	63.2 % of staff and 70.7% of community members who responded to the survey listed addressing student social emotional health as a priority.	\$623080.50

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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 (\$)
	community and connections. The District goal is to increase proficiency rates, attendance rates and graduation rates by at least 5% per year		
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The district currently has initiatives and funds allocated to addressing the specific needs of students who are English Language Learners, have disabilities or who are experiencing homelessness	The input provided for funding in this area was that there was minimal need, the needs are more global	0

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)

In addition to ongoing input that we solicit from faculty, staff and other stakeholders, we sent a specific survey out to staff, families and via website. Additionally, we met in person with every department and grade level across the school district and asked them to propose solutions for some of the obstacles to student success that they were experiencing. We synthesized that input and then in the survey we asked respondents to priorities areas to focus efforts but also asked for other input that would help us develop ways that would meaningfully impact student academic progress and student success. We categorized responses and included the information in this ESSA Foundation Aid Increase survey. There are many other things that we will be working on to improve our school climate, student well being, attendance and academic achievement that will be funded with existing funding streams.