

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Background/Instructions**

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

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.

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	Ensure all students in grades 3-5 have access to a musical instrument.	Our community voiced concerns over student access to the fine and performing arts because they know that data trends suggest that students achieve academically when they are connected and engaged in the arts. Our stakeholders request increased access to musical instruments like the access is provided for textbooks, calculators, uniforms, etc..	\$1,300,000.00
Reducing class sizes	Improve/lower the ratio of teacher to students in our PK-5 classrooms.	Our community voiced concerns over some elementary class sizes. Our stakeholders request the district consider reducing the number of students in each of our PK-5 classrooms.	\$475,000.00
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Ensure teachers have access to high quality professional development through instructional coaches/specialists.	Our community voiced concerns over enhancing teaching quality to improve student achievement. Our stakeholders request increased availability instructional coaches / learning coaches to assist with professional development to address differentiation of instruction.	\$609,390.00
Addressing student social-emotional health	Ensure one counselor and one school resource officer is available in each school building.	Our community voiced concerns over student social-emotional health and safety. Our stakeholders request increased availability of mental health counselors and school resource officers.	\$1,121,865.00
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Ensure appropriate staffing is available and in place to address ENL/ELL instruction, adaptive physical education, and special education services in each school building.	Our community voiced concerns over an increase in the number of students needing ENL, APE, and special education services. Our stakeholders request increased availability of teachers to address the specialized needs of each student.	\$570,000.00

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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Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

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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 (\$)
(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 has worked closely with all staff to develop the budget. This year, the district did video vignettes to help reach more people on all aspects of the budget inclusive of the expenditures of the Foundation Aid increase. We recieved a great deal of support from all parties.

Community reachout:

- Public Hearing in District - May 8, 2023
- Town / Village Hearings / Presentations - April 17, April 19, April 20, May 4
- PTA Hearings / Presentations - March 29, April 11, April 25
- Staff Meeting Presentations - April 13, April 17, April 18, April 20, May 11
- Lunch and Learn Virtual / Zoom Presentation - April 13
- Chamber / Rotary Presentation - April 19

Recommendations:

- Student access to the fine and performing arts because they know that data trends suggest that students achieve academically when they are connected and engaged in the arts. Our stakeholders request increased access to musical instruments like the access is provided for textbooks, calculators, uniforms, etc.
- Increase in the number of students needing ENL, APE, and special education services. Our stakeholders requested increased availability of teachers to address the specialized needs of each student
- Elementary class sizes.
- Student social-emotional health and safety. Our stakeholders requested increased availability of mental health counselors and school resource officers.
- Increase in the number of students needing ENL, APE, and special education services. Our stakeholders requested increased availability of teachers to address the specialized needs of each Student.

Community feedback was used to finalize the budget priorities.