

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

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Page Last Modified: 06/08/2023

**Background and Instructions**Background

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

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

## 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	NA	70.6% of responders were in favor of using our funds to increase graduation rates but did not believe this was the top area to focus on.	NA
Reducing class sizes	Hiring of an elementary teacher to keep class sizes to what is acceptable to the community and board of education	73.5% expressed they would like to see us utilize our funding increase to reduce class sizes	84821
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	NA	76.7% of responders expressed they would like to see funding utilized to provide additional supports academically for students in danger of not meeting state standards	NA
Addressing student social-emotional health	Home Hospital Support Increases	84.5% of responders expressed they would like us to utilize increased funding to address student social-emotional health	45000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Special Education Out of district placements	83.2% would like to see funds utilized to increase resources for ELL, SWD and students experiencing homelessness	215980

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 (\$)
Keeping current grad level staffing	Keep programing leveled to support the initiaitves we put in place that will no longer be covered with ARP, CRSSA and CARES funding	stakeholders supports this as well as the reduction of or keeping class sizes stable	1,312,537
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**

## Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

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)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)
Cyber Security	Cyber Security Data Protection Officer	no direct comments were mentioned about cyber security but the community did support this initiative as the budget passed	118,000
School Safety	School Resource Officer	stakeholders supports more school safety and wanted resource officers	50,000
Assisted Instruction	Computer Assisted Instructional Devices	stakeholders did not make direct comments on this area	40,000
Occupational Education Students	Additional Trades Opportunities for students	stakeholders requested enrichment opportunities for students	170,432
Utilities	Cost of Utilities increases to support schools running as usual	stakeholders did not make direct comments on this area	301,337
Rates of Pay	Teaching Sub rate increase to support shortages	stakeholders referenced the need for sub coverage and this was included	71,000
Athletics	New Athletic Director (prior position part time)	stakeholders did not directly reference new athletic director	60,000
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

**Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)**

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

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Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

- 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)**

We emailed all families, K12 staff, and students to receive feedback on the plan. We received 309 responses, allowing people to write in responses beyond the initial items mentioned in the survey. Once responses were received, a chart was created to review the data. We first looked at the Five priority areas originally provided and then created additional priority areas based on written responses.

The summarized comments requested the following:

1. Academic support and enrichment - included in the plan
2. Free food service program - not included as we were uncertain of the future plans of child nutrition
3. Athletics - girl sports, jerseys, etc - included in the plan
4. Building updates - not included in the plan but written down for capital project (future)
5. Different instructional programs - included in the plan
6. Free Pre-K for all - received additional UPK slots, so we did not address this area this year
7. New Clubs, Activities, and dances - working through contract negotiations so this is a future consideration
8. Art & Music Department Programs - included in the plan
9. Professional development for staff - included in the plan

Once this information was compiled, it was shared during the budget development process with the Board of Education during out public board meetings (also recorded and put online). This allowed for a wide opportunity of discussion, inclusion and prioritization.