

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

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

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

Page Last Modified: 07/06/2023

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	Continue training staff in scientifically based instructional practices and embedding greater rigor in all classes	Concerns related to	10,000
Reducing class sizes	N/A	We maintain low class sizes already so no additional funding will be utilized for this	0
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Maintaining increased staff related to RTI and AIS services	It is felt that students continue to need additional help in their overall learning and by having additional staff to support them beyond the instruction in a classroom would help many of our students	75,000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Continued support of student mental health via 1.8 FTE BOCES mental health staff including behavior specialist, social worker and mental health counselor. This is in addition to the 3 school counselors and 1 school psychologist already on staff.	The structure we have in place provides for a less and 100:1 student to mental health provider ratio that seemed to be a desired service for many of our students	125,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Addition of a classroom based special education staff, teacher aide and teacher assistant	District residents felt additional support for special education students and other students with varied needs was appropriate	190,000

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 (\$)
Balancing the district budget longitudinally	Fiscal stability will be improved. The district has been identified as being susceptible to fiscal stress	The community is acutely aware of the state underfunding the district upon the closure of the power plant in the district. The consensus of residents was that fiscal conservatism and long term planning of future foundation aid was imperative for long term sustainability and the funding received	(No Response)

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 07/06/2023

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 (\$)
		allows for a long term balanced budget	

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 individuals present have been following the state of district finances for some time and understand the facts related to our past financial struggles and how closely tied they have been to the substantial underfunding of Foundation Aid and the effects of the closure of the local coal fired power plant. Stakeholders also understand the access to the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund will be short lived and the level of funding through Foundation Aid is the only way the district can maintain a sustainable budget into the future that is affordable to the local taxpayers. This issue has been a topic of consideration for some time at Board of Education meetings and in public notifications. The continual discourse with the community about the underfunding of Foundation Aid, the current changes in aid, and the long term planning of the district can be found in Board of Education minutes and district newsletters. At this time it seems that the community is confident in the direction the district is taking financially and how the now proper levels of funding through Foundation Aid are being utilized and planned for in the long term as well as addressing short term needs.