

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

Page Last Modified: 06/26/2023

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	N/A	N/A	0
Reducing class sizes	Key Goal: Maintaining smaller class sizes at the elementary school especially in the lower grades K-3 we retained 8 sections to keep class sizes at the lower end of our board policy. FTE's were added for Science and Music at the middle school to keep class sizes lower as well as a French/Spanish teacher will be added at the High School to reduce class sizes and increase student choice with scheduling.	The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 02/07/23, 03/14/23, 03/28/23, 04/18/23 and 05/02/23. The budget committee met before each community meeting to review the budget and presentation. Prior to each meeting a community blast is sent out informing the community of the upcoming meeting and highlighting the budget workshop where community members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Additionally at the end of each presentation, it is noted that the budget presentation will be posted on our website and there is an email where stakeholders are encouraged to use to send any feedback. Each budget presentation is live streamed and recorded as well as a community blast sent out to provide the portions of the video where the budget is discussed. General consensus was support for the budget despite limited feedback that was received however some community members expressed positive support for adding the foreign language teacher at the high school to help with scheduling and increased choice for students.	759,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Key goal: Providing additional supports in the areas of Math and Literacy	The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 02/07/23, 03/14/23, 03/28/23, 04/18/23 and 05/02/23. The budget committee met before each community meeting to review the budget and presentation. Prior to each meeting a community blast is sent out informing the community of the upcoming meeting and highlighting the budget workshop where community members are encouraged to attend and provide	553,315

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/26/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
		feedback. Additionally at the end of each presentation, it is noted that the budget presentation will be posted on our website and there is an email where stakeholders are encouraged to use to send any feedback. Each budget presentation is live streamed and recorded as well as a community blast sent out to provide the portions of the video where the budget is discussed. General consensus was support for the budget despite limited feedback that was received however some community members expressed the need for additional math supports at all schools. This was addressed by adding FTE's at all three schools to address and provide additional math supports.	
Addressing student social-emotional health	Key goals: Providing additional social emotional supports for students by adding an additional guidance counselor at the middle school and a .6 psychologist to help districtwide needs. The additional guidance counselor will provide one per grade at the middle school and will help with the transition for students from both the elementary school coming to the middle school and the students moving from the middle school to the high school.	The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 02/07/23, 03/14/23, 03/28/23, 04/18/23 and 05/02/23. The budget committee met before each community meeting to review the budget and presentation. Prior to each meeting a community blast is sent out informing the community of the upcoming meeting and highlighting the budget workshop where community members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Additionally at the end of each presentation, it is noted that the budget presentation will be posted on our website and there is an email where stakeholders are encouraged to use to send any feedback. Each budget presentation is live streamed and recorded as well as a community blast sent out to provide the portions of the video where the budget is discussed. General consensus was support for the budget despite limited feedback that was received.	184,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Key goals: Providing additional supports for students with disabilities in our academic support program as well as more support/choice for co-taught classes and resource rooms.	The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 02/07/23, 03/14/23, 03/28/23, 04/18/23 and 05/02/23. The budget committee met before each community meeting to review	126,000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/26/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
		the budget and presentation. Prior to each meeting a community blast is sent out informing the community of the upcoming meeting and highlighting the budget workshop where community members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Additionally at the end of each presentation, it is noted that the budget presentation will be posted on our website and there is an email where stakeholders are encouraged to use to send any feedback. Each budget presentation is live streamed and recorded as well as a community blast sent out to provide the portions of the video where the budget is discussed. General consensus was support for the budget despite limited feedback that was received.	

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 (\$)
Other Priority Area - Safety and Security	Key Goals: Safety and Security is a high priority. The district is increasing the budget for security to add either an SRO or security guards to each building to increase our security profile. Additionally, the district is adding assistant coaches to high contact varsity sports where injuries have been known to occur and the need for an additional coach to be onsite at these events.	The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 02/07/23, 03/14/23, 03/28/23, 04/18/23 and 05/02/23. The budget committee met before each community meeting to review the budget and presentation. Prior to each meeting a community blast is sent out informing the community of the upcoming meeting and highlighting the budget workshop where community members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Additionally at the end of each presentation, it is noted that the budget presentation will be posted on our website and there is an email where stakeholders are encouraged to	398,601

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/26/2023

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 (\$)
		use to send any feedback. Each budget presentation is live streamed and recorded as well as a community blast sent out to provide the portions of the video where the budget is discussed. General consensus was support for the budget despite limited feedback that was received. During the school year a number of parents who have experienced student injuries at these high contact sport events expressed the need for an additional coach to address issues such as these.	
Other Priority Area - Maintain Tax Levy below the Maximum Allowable Levy Cap	Key Goals: The Board's priority is to maintain and enhance all programs, address student needs and enrichment while being fiscally responsible in keeping the tax levy below the maximum allowable levy cap.	The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 02/07/23, 03/14/23, 03/28/23, 04/18/23 and 05/02/23. The budget committee met before each community meeting to review the budget and presentation. Prior to each meeting a community blast is sent out informing the community of the upcoming meeting and highlighting the budget workshop where community members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Additionally at the end of each presentation, it is noted that the budget presentation will be posted on our website and there is an email where stakeholders are encouraged to use to send any feedback. Each budget presentation is live streamed and recorded as well as a community blast sent out to provide the portions of the video where the budget is discussed. General consensus was support for the budget despite limited feedback that was received.	1,406,045

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseUse of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/26/2023

- 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)**

Our plans for Foundation Aid expenditures were incorporated into the budget process. The budget is presented at multiple board meetings and budget forums that are open to the public. The information was also shared in a budget newsletter. The budget presentation and newsletter are also posted online. In each case, there is an additional opportunity for the public to submit written comments and questions through a designated "Budget" email address. At all District Board of Education Meetings, there are always two public comment periods (for items on and off the agenda). During the public budget workshops advance email blasts are distributed notifying the community and staff about the key items that will be on the agenda (this occurs for every meeting, inviting all stakeholders to attend in person, view the live stream, and provide comments/feedback. Additionally, in advance of public budget workshops various meetings are held with stakeholders such as curriculum/teacher leaders, and building and department leaders to gain input and feedback.

One common theme expressed throughout the year has been the desire for additional math support. This was addressed by adding math staff at all three buildings. At our data book presentations, the building administrators explained the multi-tiered system of support that the district has been and will be employing to address student needs (for all students, inclusive of struggling as well as high-achieving students). Discussions also occurred surrounding the literacy link to mathematics and the need for additional literacy interventions.

In addition to math instruction and the multi-tiered support structure for academics. We have focussed on MTSS-B or the multi-tiered support structures for behavior. This work builds on our strong commitment to SEL in all three schools and resulted in the addition of a guidance counselor position at the Middle School and a part-time psychologist at the High School. In addition, adding positions in Math, ELA, and World language at the secondary level will reduce class sizes and allow teachers to do more Tier 1 intervention with their students.

The administration had in-depth public presentations on these priority areas at public budget workshops and data book presentations with opportunities for community feedback. Stakeholders, as well as the board of education, have consistently expressed the need to manage the tax levy and remain below the maximum allowable tax levy. This additional aid allows the district to continue to supplement programs and address academic and social-emotional needs while managing the tax burden on the community.