

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	by measuring the scores on ELA/Math/Science assessments and regents exams, supports were targeted to students with disabilities and those who were economically disadvantaged. Additionally, supports were targeted to increase the mastery level on regents exams, and also to increase the number of HS students enrolling in at least one AP course.	Although the graduation rates were high (97%), the comments indicated a desire for expanded opportunities and career pathways for students who may not be suited for college, including more academic structure for "kids in the middle". Also sought a closer look at needs of Special Education students. All recommendations were reflected in the plan.	552802
Reducing class sizes	Class sizes are assessed each year, with class rosters developed in order to enable all classes to be sized within teacher:student ratios set by the district for varying grade levels.	As measured by consistently high approvals of the proposed budget, staffing levels were maintained at levels that would enable smaller class sizes in keeping with targeted levels by grade.	552802
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	by measuring the scores on ELA/Math/Science assessments and regents exams, supports were targeted to students with disabilities and those who were economically disadvantaged. Additionally, supports were targeted to increase the mastery level on regents exams, and also to increase the number of HS students enrolling in at least one AP course.	The comments reflected a desire to provide supports for struggling learners and enrichment for advanced learners.	552801
Addressing student social-emotional health	by closely monitoring absenteeism and actively reaching out to those with chronic absenteeism, strive to provide appropriate supports to enable a return to school. Provide supports to minimize the need for suspensions/expulsions/disciplinary referrals, in hopes of increasing access to school resources. Offer expanded counseling, guidance and social worker supports to students struggling with SEL. Provide classroom instruction from counseling staff, on important SEL topics.	The comments reflected a desire to see students prepared for the next stage of life, as a productive member of society. Wanted to see students well-rounded, happy and kind, possessing self-confidence and self-worth. Also important was acquiring a lifelong love of learning, and for students to be globally aware.	552801
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities,	by measuring the scores on ELA/Math/Science assessments and	The comments reflected a desire to support all students especially those from	552801

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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 (\$)
and students experiencing homelessness	regents exams, supports were targeted to students with disabilities and those who were economically disadvantaged. Additionally, supports were targeted to increase the mastery level on regents exams, and also to increase the number of HS students enrolling in at least one AP course.	marginalized or historically underperforming populations.	

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)

The district's instructional program comprises about \$60M out of its \$107M overall budget, in alignment with all of the goals in the strategic plan. The increased foundation aid was deemed to benefit each of the five main areas in equal proportions and has been fully spent.

2,252 students in grades 5-12 completed the survey, 706 community members, 206 instructional staff members, and 82 non-instructional staff members. The common themes in the responses were that the quality of education was still excellent, but felt that with the academic focus on ELA & Math, there was a decline in social studies and science. It was noted that there were still plenty of opportunities for students to succeed. Teachers were trying to meet higher standards but felt that sometimes students were unprepared for the rigor, which was a challenge. There were mixed responses about the role of technology when evaluating the quality of the educational program. The top ten areas that the district was asked to focus on were: quality of teaching staff; preparing students with life skills; students' social/emotional development; respect for cultural and individual differences; rigorous academic program; project-based learning experiences; aligning curriculum and instruction to job market; addressing achievement gaps between subgroups of students; individualized/differentiated education for each child; access to cutting-edge technology.