

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	Maximize participation in rigorous, core curricular and advanced academic and career readiness programs by providing additional math teacher, purchasing reading textbooks, installing necessary hardware and Smartboards for interactive instruction and STEM opportunities, employing computer technician to support technology use, supporting additional summer scheduling days, engaging a Community Schools Coordinator to deepen relationships with students, parents, and community partners, and increasing athletic contractual and equipment budget. CIO and clerical staff will keep data on attendance, graduation, and student growth.	Survey 1st priority result is 37.9% Academic supports and interventions and 3rd priority result is 14.9% Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap. Comments include providing real-world opportunities, greater use of technology, providing enrichment opportunities, and creation of a Community Schools Program to support students' access to supports and services within the community.	1,967,947
Reducing class sizes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Provide additional reading teacher for academic intervention services, teacher assistants to work with students in the instructional support room and learning center, PK-4 libraries/readers, Wonders textbooks and grades 5-8 ELA classroom libraries supporting literacy development for all student levels.	Survey 1st priority result is 37.9% Academic supports and interventions. Comments include increase availability of ELA and math intervention services, data meetings, and PD to support at-risk students, tutoring and homework help.	1,038,738
Addressing student social-emotional health	To support students' social-emotional learning, flexible seating (desks and chairs) will be purchased to allow for greater project-based and cooperative learning opportunities to ensure students have positive interactions.	Survey 1st priority result is 25.3% Social-emotional supports. Comments include trauma informed practices in classrooms, flexible seating, time each day for a classroom community activity, and stronger sense of community and peer relationships.	124,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The addition of three special education teachers, a teacher assistant to support students' test accommodations, occupational therapist and behavior consultant will provide special services including differentiation, small group instruction, and set behavioral and learning	Survey 3rd priority result is 19.5% Providing adequate resources to students with disabilities and students experiencing homelessness. Comments included smaller class sizes, behavioral supports, co-teaching, common planning, more accommodations and differentiation.	787,472

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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 (\$)
	targets for students with disabilities and reduce the teacher-student ratio in those classes. In addition, special education classrooms will be provided supplemental libraries to target literacy instruction.		

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 (\$)
Operating Schools- Improving buildings and grounds infrastructure, including safety measures	Improve buildings and grounds infrastructure including safety measures with purchase of maintenance and transport vans, school panel van for technology use, floor scrubber, delivery food truck, tire balancer, and increase parts and mechanical supplies budget. A food cook, cleaner custodian and summer paint crew will also be employed. Crossing guards will ensure student safety at busy intersections.	6.3% of survey comments addressed safety. Many would like to see School Resource Officers and other safety precautions. District goals support updates and improvements to building and grounds infrastructure. Crossing guards are needed at intersections to direct traffic.	1,118,250

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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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)**

A public forum was held on the 2023-2024 budget. Factors impacting the school budget, federal stimulus aid, state revenue projections, and foundation aid were reviewed. Projected revenues and expenses were provided, as well as, budget requests. A public survey was also distributed requesting feedback on priorities.

Based on public survey, the top three 1st priority results are: 37.9% Academic supports and interventions, 25.3% Social-emotional supports, and 16.1% Reducing class sizes. The top three 2nd priority results are: 32.2% Academic supports and interventions, 25.3% Social-emotional supports, and 14.9% Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap. The top three 3rd priority results are: 25.3% Social-emotional supports, 20.1% Academic supports and interventions and 19.5% Providing adequate resources to students with disabilities and students experiencing homelessness.

Categories and percentage of comment responses are as follows:

- Advanced Classes/Enrichment/Life Skills- 16.7%
- Advisory Groups- 4.6%
- Alternative Education- 7.5%
- Community Schools- 7.5%
- Safety- 6.3%
- Behavior/Discipline- 6.3%
- Social-Emotional Supports- 20.1%
- Academic Supports- 21.8%
- Students with Disabilities- 9.8%

Comments focused on providing an Alternative Education Program for the at-risk population, establishing Advisory Groups to form connections to work on conflict resolution and peer programming, expanding behavioral supports and providing research-based reading and math programming. Also, providing honors and enrichment opportunities such as theatre, field trips, college prep, intramurals, art, music, environmental, and STEM programs. Several comments centered on basic life skills learning money management, work ethic and career exploration. Other suggestions focused on safety to include discipline methods and School Resource Officers. Comments on social-emotional needs to include counseling and connections in the community, DEI and training for staff.