

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: 06/30/2023

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	Increase career & technical opportunities, update student technology and improve academic performance	Community voiced concerns over alternatives to college, technological skills and student performance	794649
Reducing class sizes	Maintain instructional employee counts to prevent increased class sizes	Community expressed concern to not reduce teaching staff in order to prevent class sizes from increasing	1377180
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Reduce student to guidance counselor ratio	Community expressed concern for additional guidance counselors to help students with academic performance	217958
Addressing student social-emotional health	Provide additional psychological and emotional supports to students	community voiced desire for more social-emotional supports	246953
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Provide appropriate placements for students with disabilities	Community expressed desire to ensure special education students are educated to the best of the district's ability	2356278

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 (\$)
Provide LRE for special ed students	Bring special ed students back from out of district placements where possible	community expressed desire to educate special education students at Minisink	355,157

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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

Page Last Modified: 06/30/2023

- 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)**

The district engaged the community through a variety of methods. There were four budget development meeting where input was solicited regarding the district's increase in state aid. In addition, there were eight board of education meetings soliciting input from the community stakeholders regarding state aid increases. Each of the meetings were advertised and the budget documents included the state aid increase. The Superintendent also met with faculty and staff from each of the buildings. He also met with senior citizen groups, community organizations and local emergency services departments including fire departments.

Each of the stakeholder groups were specific in what the needs were for the district. They expressed that the district should work to increase college and career readiness opportunities for students. As a district we will have the largest group of students able to attend a variety of CTEC programs. They also voiced opinions that the district should provide greater social and emotional supports for our students. We have added school counselors, social workers and psychologists to our staff across the district. We also heard from the stakeholders that class size should be reduced where appropriate. Our plan has aid to be used to further that endeavor.

Our stakeholders also wanted to see more opportunities for students with special needs at the elementary level. The district is putting in an integrated co-teach model into each of our elementary buildings which will allow the district to bring students back from out of district placements.