

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	n/a	n/a	n/a
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	n/a	n/a	n/a
Addressing student social-emotional health	A portion of the Foundation Aid increase will be used to add an additional school counselor to the high school staff. This will allow us to keep our student:counselor ratio at a very favorable level under 190:1 and allow us to meet individuals' needs more promptly and more deeply. In addition, the district will increase its HS social worker staff by 0.5FTE. This will provide additional broad-spectrum SEL supports for students and families.	These decisions were made based on input from families and the community during two public board of education meetings where these topics were on the agenda. The community sought to maintain a highly favorable student:counselor ratio based on the increased number of students struggling with mental health concerns. The increase in social worker was to allow more broad-spectrum social-emotional support for students and families instead of the prior sole focus on substance abuse concerns.	160,280
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	A portion of the Foundation Aid increase will be used to support an additional special educator and a 0.5FTE board certified behavioral analyst (BCBA) for the district. This will increase the number of students we can bring back into the district by allowing us to open an additional self-contained class. The BCBA will allow us to craft individualized behavior plans for students to allow them greater engagement and smoother navigation in school.	The community and the board of education have consistently asked for us to send fewer students out-of-district to meet their special education needs. Additionally, principals have seen an increased number of parental concerns about students' behavioral struggles and demands to address them. These staffing increases meet both needs brought to the district's attention by community members..	150,000

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.

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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 (\$)
Maintain health and safety of the buildings	Following COVID, the district set a goal to improve the healthiness of the building and increase the frequency and quality of cleaning rooms and surfaces. Increasing the number of custodial staff allows us to meet this goal.	Throughout the pandemic, parents and staff expressed a desire to return to the buildings, but also demanded they be safe and healthy spaces. This input led the district to continue the level of custodial support previously allowed via Federal Stimulus Grants	60,188
Maintaining fiscal responsibility and viability of the district	The district was met with an unexpected and very large increase in flood insurance premiums due to our proximity to the ocean. Our fiduciary responsibility to the community requires us to be properly insured against loss.	This problem was shared with the community during multiple board of education budget workshop meetings. During each of these meetings public input and feedback was sought. The community and board asked for state aid to be used to remain as fiscally friendly to the community as possible.	250,000
Maintaining fiscal responsibility and viability of the district	The district has faced high inflationary pressures for fuel, electricity, materials, etc., and have a community goal to minimize our tax levy increases.	This problem was shared with the community during multiple board of education budget workshop meetings. During each of these meetings public input and feedback was sought. The community and board asked for state aid to be used to remain as fiscally friendly to the community as possible.	422,029

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)**

Outreach to community stakeholders was made using a number of platforms and processes. The Board of Education holds 4 Budget Work Sessions prior to adoption of the final budget at which they seek public input on the funding decisions being made. There were 2 specific meetings in May and June at which the social-emotional health needs and the Foundation Aid increase proposals were on the Board of Education agenda and at which public comment was sought and received. This input led to the decision to increase the counselor and social worker at the high school.

Various bargaining units and families expressed concerns throughout the COVID pandemic about the cleanliness of the buildings. This input led to the decision to permanently increase custodial staff and be more proactive in maintaining the health and safety of our physical plant in support of all the students and staff who inhabit our buildings.

Through the CSE process, teachers and parents have sought to maintain more students in our own schools rather than send them to out-of-district placements. The BOE has also asked for the district to increase the number of students taught in our own programs. This input led to the decision to add the special educator to staff an additional self-contained class.

Over the past few years, principals have received input from parents through emails, phone calls, and PTA meetings expressing concerns about student behavioral needs. This input led to the decision to increase our BCBA staffing by 0.5FTE.