

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase****Background/Instructions**

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**Background and Instructions**Background

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

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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	Increase access to updated instructional technology and other instructional materials. Maintain PPS staffing levels (i.e. social workers, psychologists & guidance counselors) increased in prior school years in response to pandemic.	The community supports upgrading classroom smartboards to Cleartouch Flat Panels which enhance instructional capabilities and integrate with district provided student devices (i.e. Chromebooks). The community supports continuance of District 1:1 chromebook & internet availability initiatives to ensure that every child has access to a computer/internet connectivity both inside and outside the classroom. Lastly, the community expressed support for enhancement of instruction through investment in up-to-date materials (ex: KidOYO, EnVision, upgrade of out of date musical instruments/music suite renovation project, etc.)	2160000
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	Increase access to before/after school instructional programs for at risk students (i.e. increased Regents Review offerings, weekend math academy, & enhancement of HS after-school extra-help).	The community expressed support for expansion of Regents Review offerings and other programs intended to provide additional resources to students at risk of not meeting learning standards (ex: HS	120000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Provide additional access and opportunities for students to engage in school-related activities that promote social and emotional well-being (e.g. new sports teams or before/after school activities). Provide training to teaching and support staff in responsive classrooms and restorative practices. Maintain existing mental health staff and resources. Partner with local community organizations (i.e. Long Island Coalition Against Bullying) to bring additional resources to the Middle School.	The community supports the District making further investments in student social-emotional health, including initiatives to address the impact of bullying on students. The community feedback was further in support of offering additional athletic teams, investing more in responsive classrooms and restorative practice initiatives. Community has expressed an interest in more initiatives to increase parent/community engagement and additional before and after school activity investments. Community expressed the necessity of maintaining mental health staffing levels in all schools.	250000
Providing adequate resources to English	Support the rapidly increasing ELL	The community supports the continued	200000

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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 (\$)
language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	population by expanding ENL / Dual Language elementary program into fourth grade class.	expansion of ELL programs in our elementary schools into Grade 4 and the additional ELL certified staff that will be required to support the program..	

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 (\$)
Health and safety of students and staff.	Increase security guard presence, enhance existing security technology infrastructure and devices. Increase nursing staff levels	Community expressed favor for increased investment in security staff presence and newer security technologies that provide additional capabilities to the District to ensure the safety of all our staff and students and further protect District resources. Community expressed favor for additional nursing staff levels at schools with increasing student enrollment.	650,000
Maintain existing course offerings and average class sizes	Maintain teaching and support staffing at a level which continues existing course offerings without increasing student average class sizes.	District communicated to the community and other key stakeholders challenges with maintaining current staffing levels with increase in health insurance costs experienced during 22/23 and projected costs for 23/24. Community feedback continues to express interest in maintaining existing average class sizes/program offerings and identify opportunities where class sizes can be reduced without increasing staff levels.	1,445,000

**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)**

The Lindenhurst School District budget development process is designed to maximize opportunities to receive public comment from parents, teachers and other key stakeholders. School building and department head budget builders submit budget requests for upcoming year program expenditures in part based on feedback received from teachers and support staff. The initial budget submissions are reviewed by district administration and an initial budget draft including submitted program initiatives is developed and balanced based on projected revenues and discretionary & non-discretionary costs. The District held three community budget presentations, a formal budget public hearing, and held separate budget presentations with the local Civic Association and Parent Teacher Association groups prior to finalizing the 23/24 budget. All of these budget presentations gave opportunities to key constituency groups to provide public comments prior to the finalization of the budget. These presentations included detailed administrative reports on many aspects of the budget development process, including expected state aid increases and how increases support the educational programs and other spending initiatives. Lastly, the District mailed a budget newsletter to each residential address in the community with much of the same information as another outreach opportunity to receive public comments. Analysis of public comments as noted above provides the following common recommendations from key stakeholders: (1) continue to maintain existing programs, especially those that prioritize the social and emotional needs of students. (2) prioritize the safety and security of staff and students, and (3) offer additional authentic learning and extracurricular opportunities to staff and students, including investments in technology enhancements. The District plan above aligns with these common recommendations.