

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	N/A	N/A	N/A
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	N/A	N/A	N/A

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 (\$)
Maintaining Small Class Sizes while reducing our reliance on Appropriated Fund Balance	We will be able to reduce the reliance on fund balance to cover general expenditures, cover increased costs and maintain current programs all while keeping the tax levy UNDER the maximum allowable levy under the tax cap law, providing relief to our taxpayers during these high inflationary times. This Foundation Aid increase also helps close the funding gap that has been created from it being withheld all of these years. This increase also allows us to maintain small class sizes.	Weekly surveys to gain feedback were sent to stakeholders (Parents, community, staff, etc..) starting 3/24/23 through 5/12/23. The 23-24 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 1/30/23, 2/6/2023, 2/27/23, 3/13/2023, 4/11/2023, 4/18/2023 and 5/8/23. During these presentations, we discussed the proposed increase in foundation aid and feedback was requested after each presentation, and the general consensus was that the community was in support of a tax levy below the maximum allowable under the cap, maintaining small class	918,559

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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 (\$)
		sizes. and reducing our reliance on appropriated fund balance to balance the budget, as evidenced by majority voter support of the District's 2022-23 budget. The results of the survey were also presented to the community and stakeholders at our final budget presentations.	

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)**

Weekly surveys to gain feedback were sent to stakeholders (Parents, community, staff, etc..) starting 3/24/23 through 5/12/23. The 23-24 budget was presented to the community on the following dates: 1/30/23, 2/6/2023, 2/27/23, 3/13/2023, 4/11/2023, 4/18/2023 and 5/8/23. During these presentations, we discussed the proposed increase in foundation aid and feedback was requested after each presentation, and the general consensus was that the community was in support of a tax levy below the maximum allowable under the cap, maintaining small class sizes. and reducing our reliance on appropriated fund balance to balance the budget, as evidenced by majority voter support of the District's 2022-23 budget. The results of the survey were also presented to the community and stakeholders at our final budget presentations.

As we navigate our way out of a worldwide pandemic and ever increasing rates of inflations, the Board wanted to be mindful of the impacts inflation has had on our community. With the Maximum Allowable Tax levy calculated at over 4%, the Board wanted to present a tax levy that was well below this number but still maintaining programs and class sizes. This increase in foundation aid allowed us to present a tax levy under the allowable limit. 32% of respondents supported this use.

25% of Stakeholders expressed concern over the trend of relying on appropriated fund balance to balance the budget. This number had been growing significantly over the past few years and was unsustainable. This additional aid allows us to reduce reliance on appropriated fund balance without cuts to programs or class sizes. While this was not the #1 response, the board felt it was important to address.

67.7% of respondents indicated the goal of small class sizes. With this increased state aid we are thankful that we are able to maintain small class sizes. This was discussed and presented to the community at our budget workshops.

For responses we were not able to include, the District has programs in place to address many of these recommendations. We are also still receiving one more year of ARP funding that will be used to address learning loss.