

## **Jericho School District - Foundation Aid Plan for 2022-23 Budget**

The 2022-23 enacted New York State budget included a foundation aid increase of approximately \$492,719 or 13.3% over the 2020-21 foundation aid amount. This increase is an effort to bring our district closer to our full foundation aid allocation, which is anticipated to occur in the 2023-24 school year. In accordance with Section D10 of the authorization for these funds, provided below is a statement of the proposed use of the funds to address student performance and need, specifically in the following areas:

### **(1) Reducing class size.**

During the 2020-21 school year, we reduced class size at the elementary level to 20 in order to decrease density in the classrooms. Prior to the pandemic, class size was 25 students in all kindergarten through grade 3 classes and 27 for all students in grades 4 and 5. The decision to lower class size for the health and welfare of our students was a prudent one that reaped many benefits. During the 2020-21 school year, there was no student-to-student spread or staff-to-student spread of Covid-19 during the entire school year. In addition, despite the pandemic, teachers were able to provide more targeted, individualized instruction to their students due to smaller class size. Due to the success of smaller class sizes during the 2021-22 school year, we maintained class size at the elementary level for all K-5 students at 23. Due to increased foundation aid, we will be able to maintain class sizes of 23 throughout all of the District's elementary schools.

### **(2) Addressing student social-emotional health.**

For the 2022-23 school year, we will be adding an additional guidance counselor to the High School to provide additional emotional support to our students. This allows us to reduce the counselor-to-student ratio.

Developed a strong partnership with a New York State approved mental health clinic to expedite psychiatric evaluations for students and families in need, as well as provide individual counseling services.

### **(3) Providing adequate resources to English language learners and students with disabilities.**

This aid allows us to maintain six self-contained special education classes to support students with severe disabilities on-site, in grades K-12.

We are able to maintain 15:1 NYS regents track classes for students with disabilities who need specialized instruction in core subject areas (ELA, math, social studies, science).

Our school district has exceeded NYS requirements for students in need of ENL services. The additional funding will be utilized to maintain and provide additional ENL support periods for identified ELLs that demonstrate a need for additional academic support, emotional support, and/or have been identified as at-risk. ELLs that present a need for additional ENL support periods outside of the state-mandated requirements will be provided with additional support through our sheltered/intensive ENL programming options and/or via our Learning Center(s).

The increased funding will be able to assist us in maintaining students' supplemental ENL instructional support services, such as content area language support, AIS support, ENL support, and direct 1-to-1 and/or small group content area instructional support on an as needed basis.

**Please address all comments regarding this plan to Mr. Victor Manuel at [vmanuel@jerichoschools.org](mailto:vmanuel@jerichoschools.org) or Dr. Ivy Sherman at [isherman@jerichoschools.org](mailto:isherman@jerichoschools.org)**

**The plan stated above was discussed at the June 16, 2022 Board of Education Meeting.**