

Jericho School District - Foundation Aid Plan for 2023-24 Budget

The 2023-24 enacted New York State budget included a foundation aid increase of approximately \$2,554,896 or 60.8% over the 2022-23 foundation aid amount. This increase brings our district to our full foundation aid allocation. 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 the district's elementary schools.

(2) Keeping tax levy increases minimal or flat.

During 2022-23, the district kept the tax levy increase flat from the prior year, and flat for seven of the last nine years. During the 23-24 school year the tax levy limit will be significantly below our cap due to the additional Foundation Aid funding.

(3) Addressing student social-emotional health.

The district added an additional guidance counselor to the High School to provide additional emotional support to our students during the 2022-23 school year. This allowed us to reduce the counselor-to-student ratio. During the 2023-24 school year the district will be adding a school counselor for our K-5 students. This will provide increased social-emotional opportunities for all our elementary students.

The funding will also allow us to maintain the additional psychologist we hired to support our students social and emotional health.

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.

(4) Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or are at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas.

The additional Foundation Aid funding allows us to maintain support classes in grades 6-11 in Math and ELA for students who are at risk for not meeting State standards. Additionally, the funding allows us to maintain our Math and Science specialists at our elementary schools in order to provide enrichment and remediation to our K-5 students.

(5) Providing adequate resources to English language learners and students with disabilities.

This aid allows us to maintain many co-teaching classes in grades K-12 to support students with disabilities on-site. Co-teaching provides one full-time general education teacher plus one full-time special education teacher in each class.

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).

Additionally, we will be hiring a full-time ENL Facilitator during the 23-24 school year. This facilitator will meet with families new to the district, evaluate students ENL status to determine appropriate class placement and supports needed for the students. This facilitator will also provide professional development to our staff to improve pedagogy.

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 or Dr. Ivy Sherman at isherman@jerichoschools.org

The plan stated above was discussed at the June 8, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.