

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseBackground/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

- 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	The increase in Foundation Aid will be used to support reading intervention for elementary students through the addition of a 0.6 FTE Elementary Literacy Coach. This employee will specialize in supporting students' ability to decode and develop their phonemic awareness. Reading intervention will also be supported with the addition of a full-time, Wilson Level 2-trained reading teacher, who will support every student in the District, K-12..	This proposed priority area was presented to various stakeholders throughout the budget development process, including teachers, parents and members of the community through the District's Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee. In addition, several budget presentations were made to the Board of Education, which included an opportunity for public comment. A public budget hearing was also held, giving stakeholders an opportunity to make comments. Ultimately, the proposed budget was overwhelmingly approved by the community, with an 80% passage rate.	350000
Reducing class sizes	N/A	N/A	0
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	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	The additional Foundation Aid will be used to increase a part-time psychologist to a full FTE at the primary level. Their role will support students' social-emotional needs in the event of a crisis, in addition to ongoing strategies and skills to assist students with their self-regulation and peer relationships.	This proposed priority area was presented to various stakeholders throughout the budget development process, including teachers, parents and members of the community through the District's Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee. In addition, several budget presentations were made to the Board of Education, which included an opportunity for public comment. A public budget hearing was also held, giving stakeholders an opportunity to make comments. Ultimately, the proposed budget was overwhelmingly approved by the community, with an 80% passage rate.	100000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The increased Foundation Aid will be used to add additional teachers and support staff at the Middle School and elementary school to provide for students with disabilities in both the special class and integrated co-teach settings.	This proposed priority area was presented to various stakeholders throughout the budget development process, including teachers, parents and members of the community through the District's Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee. In addition,	250000

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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 (\$)
		several budget presentations were made to the Board of Education, which included an opportunity for public comment. A public budget hearing was also held, giving stakeholders an opportunity to make comments. Ultimately, the proposed budget was overwhelmingly approved by the community, with an 80% passage rate.	

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 (\$)
Providing for a well-rounded education to support enrichment and extension opportunities	The increased Foundation Aid will be used to add an additional 0.8 FTE for an employee devoted to math extension for those students who are identified to benefit from further exposure to project-based learning. The increased aid will also allow for the creation of a new Career Research Academy for High School students, which will enable them to focus on career readiness and college prep.	This area of the budget was presented to stakeholders during the budget process and was received very positively.	300,000
Add'l choices for language acquisition & developing respect for those with language disabilities	The additional Foundation Aid will be used to increase a part-time American Sign Language position to a full FTE. In addition, the district will be conducting a feasibility study in the 2023-24 school year with the hopes of implementing a foreign language program at the elementary level at some point in the near future.	This area of the budget was presented to stakeholders during the budget process and was received very positively.	100,000
Increasing District-wide Safety & Security	The additional Foundation Aid will be used for the continuation of a full-time, District-wide School Resource Officer, the addition of a part-time Coordinator of Safety and Security, and the continued implementation of the key	Based on feedback received during the budget process, this is an area of highest priority for the stakeholders.	800,000

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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 (\$)
	recommendations from the District's safety & security audit.		
Creating a learning environment conducive to learning	The additional Foundation Aid will be used to modernize classrooms across all four schools, which will be designed to support teaching and learning.	This area of the budget was presented to stakeholders during the budget process and was received very positively.	337,449

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

- 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 proposed priority areas were presented to various stakeholders throughout the budget development process, including teachers, parents and community members. In addition, the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee, comprised of various stakeholders in the community, held several meetings throughout the budget process and served as a tool for collecting feedback from the community to inform the District in making key budget decisions. Further, several budget presentations were made to the Board of Education, which included an opportunity for public comment. As required by law, a Public Budget Hearing was also held prior to the annual budget vote, giving stakeholders the opportunity to comment. Ultimately, the proposed budget was overwhelmingly approved by the community with an 80% passage rate.