

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid IncreaseBackground/Instructions

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

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.

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

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	0
Reducing class sizes	The additional foundation aid funds will be used to keep class sizes lower by adding five sections of elementary classes and increase the number of teachers at both the middle and secondary levels by 2. It was also necessary to increase paraprofessionals and special area teachers to keep caseloads lower. The key goal is to keep class sizes lower in order to help increase overall academic performance and address mental health challenges that were created during the hybrid learning phase of the pandemic.	Increased staffing to keep class sizes lower was discussed with the community and the board of education during three public budget workshop sessions and the public hearing for the budget. It was posted on the district's website where feedback was elicited. The plan was also reviewed during the two meetings with the District's Planning Team which is comprised of teachers, union leaders, community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. There were no questions or comments. Everyone expressed support for the plan.	1569218
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Foundation aid funds will be used to support a Learning Specialist and Coordinator for Student Services, purchase additional supplies and materials and to secure additional resources to help students to be successful. The goal is to increase support for at risk students by providing specialized instruction in a smaller class environment.	The plan was discussed with the Board of Education during public budget workshop sessions. It was posted on the district's website where feedback was elicited. The plan was also reviewed during the two meetings with the District's Planning Team which is comprised of teachers, union leaders, community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. There were no questions or comments. Everyone expressed support for the plan.	233978
Addressing student social-emotional health	The district continues to experience a high number of students that need social emotional health support. It was necessary to continue to fund the coordinator of student services, additional mental health specialists and nursing services to keep up with the demand for services. The goal is to reduce out of school suspensions and increase general student attendance.	The need for additional mental health support services was discussed at public budget workshop sessions and the public hearing for the budget. It was posted on the district's website where feedback was elicited. The plan was also reviewed during the two meetings with the District's Planning Team which is comprised of teachers, union leaders, community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. There were no questions or comments. Everyone	1625805

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
		expressed support for the plan.	
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	The number and variety of ELL students continues to increase. Funds will be used to support staffing and additional resources to promote the academic success of ELL students. The main goal is to use the funds to enhance academic achievement.	The plan was discussed with the Board of Education during public budget workshop sessions. It was posted on the district's website where feedback was elicited. The plan was also reviewed during the two meetings with the District's Planning Team which is comprised of teachers, union leaders, community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. There were no questions or comments. Everyone expressed support for the plan.	542565

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 (\$)
Security and Technology	Additional foundation aid funds will be used to support additional technology staff, additional security guards at both high schools, additional network security and the purchase of additional computer devices. The overall goal is to enhance academic achievement through the use of technology while providing a safer school environment.	The plan was discussed with the Board of Education during public budget workshop sessions. It was posted on the district's website where feedback was elicited. The plan was also reviewed during the two meetings with the District's Planning Team which is comprised of teachers, union leaders, community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. There were no questions or comments. Everyone expressed support for the plan.	901,685
Transportation and Utilities	Recruiting and retaining transportation staff continues to be very challenging. Utilities have increased substantially over the past year. Additional foundation aid funds will be used to offset salary increases in the transportation department as well as fund new recruitment ideas such as	The plan was discussed with the Board of Education during public budget workshop sessions. It was posted on the district's website where feedback was elicited. The plan was also reviewed during the two meetings with the District's Planning Team which is comprised of teachers, union leaders,	1,100,000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase**Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey**

Page Last Modified: 06/27/2023

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 (\$)
	advertising and job fairs. Utility costs will be offset by the additional foundation aid funds for the upcoming year in order to preserve programs and services for students.	community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. There were no questions or comments. Everyone expressed support for the plan.	

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)**

The district's approach to outreach is based on the work of the District's Planning Team (DPT) which is comprised of teachers, union leaders, community members, parent-teacher association members and administration. This group reviews and provides feedback on various district initiatives, including the development of budget guidelines on an annual basis. The Superintendent uses the feedback to make recommendations to the Board of Education. The budget guidelines were approved by the DPT and Board of Education. As part of the budget development process, the Foundation Aid Spending Plan was fully reviewed by DPT and the Board of Education during public workshop sessions and during the budget hearing. The district's communication specialist published the information online and requested feedback from parents, teachers and other stakeholders throughout the district. Representatives from DPT asked questions about the sustainability of the funding and then expressed support of the spending plan. The district did not receive any other feedback from stakeholders. Overall, the plan aligned with the budget guidelines and supports the district's core values.