



Foundation Aid Plan Seaford UFSD 2023-2024

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language stating that for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, each school district receiving a foundation aid increase of more than ten percent or \$10,000,000 must post to the district website prior to July 1 of each school year a plan specifying how the funds will be used to address student performance and need, including but not limited to:

- Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap.
- Reducing class size.
- Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or who are at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas.
- Addressing student social-emotional health;
- Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness.
- Goals and ratios for pupil support.
- Detailed summaries of investments in current year initiatives and balance funds spent in priority areas

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Seaford Union Free School District received a foundation aid increase of \$1,724,083 or 17.93%. After years of advocacy by school districts and other organizations, the State is finally on the path to fully restoring foundation aid (our fair share) over the next couple of years. The proposed increase of the foundation aid for 2023-2024 full restores the aid that had been deferred for many years. These funds offset the expenditure increases and the revenue shortfalls for the 2023-2024 school year.

Reducing Class Sizes

The 2023-2024 budget includes two additional General Education teachers that will allow us to maintain current levels or lower-class size at the elementary level. We are also in need of two additional Special Education teachers: one for another self-contained class at our Manor Elementary School and another Special Education teacher at the Secondary level. These additional staff and classes will allow us to better maintain the recommended class size limits as per our Board of Education Policy and provide appropriate services for all our children.

Addressing Student Social-Emotional Health

As a result of the global COVID -19 pandemic, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) continues to be a top priority in our schools. Our ad hoc Security Guard Staffing Committee research options for maintaining safety in our schools. When our community was surveyed by this committee, enhancing PPS support was noted as an important addition. The budget does include the additional funding of three PPS staff, a combination of Social Workers and Psychologists.

Investments in Current Year Initiatives and Priority Areas

- **Library, Innovation, Fitness, Technology (LIFT) Program:** In the 2022-2023 school year and with the re-imagining of library spaces within our Elementary school buildings, the educators of Seaford implemented a program entitled ***LIFT***. This is an interdisciplinary program for our K-5 students at the Manor and Harbor Elementary Schools. It focuses on library skills, research and the innovative project-based learning program of ***Project Lead The Way***; critical thinking, teamwork, creative problem solving, innovative thinking and inquiry based learning; nutrition, mindfulness and SEL programs utilizing RULER & Habits of Mind, movement and fitness; and technology relating to STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. This new program has generated a lot of interest in the last year and as such, we are utilizing the additional foundation aid to upgrade these collaborative learning spaces with flexible furniture to further improve student engagement.
- **Facility Upgrades:** The appropriate maintenance of our buildings and infrastructure is of utmost importance. After touring the buildings administration has identified that some kitchen equipment needs to be upgraded. In conjunction with the latest Building Condition Study, the improvement of three compartment sinks was an important use of foundation aid funds. Another important facility improvement are new steam traps at our two elementary buildings.
- **District-wide Security Measures:** As part of our District-wide Health and Security Committee, we are constantly analyzing the areas in which we may make our school campuses safer for our students and staff. This has been brought to the fore-front with the recent school violence attacks throughout the country. Due to these tragic occurrences, the Seaford UFSD has conducted security assessments of our buildings and has committed to additional unarmed guards during our playground times as well as a roaming guard for all of our district buildings. Additional enhancements also include security film on our outside front doors and windows as well as “banker” style boxes at the school entrances for receiving items without allowing entrance to our buildings

Public Comment If you have questions or feedback regarding the Seaford Union Free School District Foundation Aid Plan, please contact the district office at (516) 592-4030.