Baldwin Union Free School District
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www.baldwinschools.org

June, 2023

State Foundation Aid Funding Plan

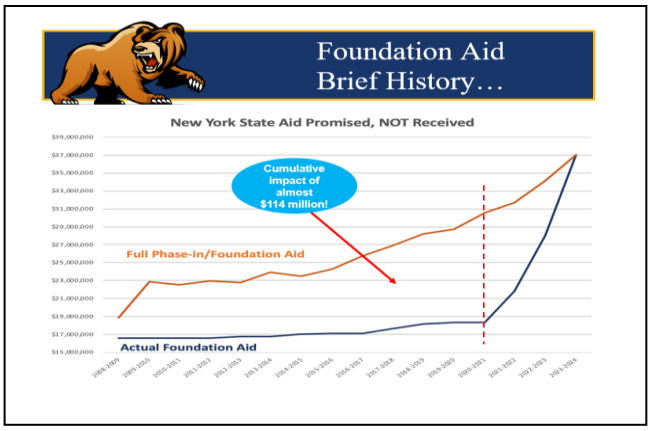
Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language stating that, for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, each school district receiving a foundation aid increase of more than 10% or $10,000,000 a school year must post a plan of 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; and
- 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 2023-24 school year, the Baldwin Union Free School District received a foundation aid increase of $9,476,709 or 24.03%.

The district recognizes the significant financial and operational impact of foundation aid funding levels that were withheld in the previous several years due to the budget deficits realized by New York State. In fact, since 2008, the Baldwin Union Free School district has experienced foundation aid "hold backs" totaling almost $114 million.



The district's priorities in utilizing the increase in foundation aid include sustaining programs and student supports at the current level while reinforcing programs that prioritize equitable academic supports and access to services for students. Other priorities include the long-term sustainability of programs and facilities for the next generation of students and staff within the Baldwin Union Free School District.

Throughout the budget development process and through strategic planning discussions with administrators and our board of education, the district has sought input from all stakeholders within the school district community. Baldwin Schools prides itself on being innovative and forward thinking, as demonstrated by numerous accolades and acknowledgements from both inside and outside the public education industry community. The focus has always been concentrated on the district's direction moving forward. Concerns related to wellness, for both students and staff, and the need for more mental health resources in the post-pandemic environment, especially social workers, for students and staff remain of paramount importance.

The district did receive feedback on the need for support for ENL students, disadvantaged youth, and those students who are struggling academically due to previous quarantines and absences, and lost learning opportunities due to COVID at all school levels. Comments included an emphasis on updating school buildings, facilities, and athletic fields. Feedback also focused on the district's class sizes, ensuring there is continual evaluation at each grade level with the effort to reduce as needed.

Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap

Plan Summary:

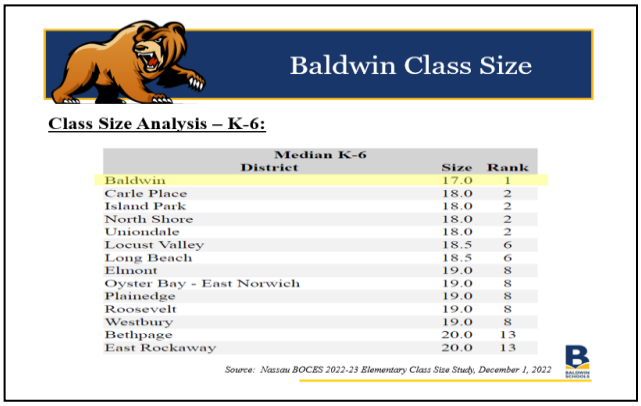
The district is adding teaching staff to enhance our programs, providing opportunities for students to gain knowledge and exposure to meet the most desired and applicable career experiences, college majors, associate degrees, and skilled trade professions. To further support this effort, the district created an "Educator Residency Program" to provide intensified training/professional development to support key areas of our education program. These Educator's-in-Residence would further the training with their colleagues and peers to provide improved instructional practice across all content areas.

Foundation Aid allocation: ($1,663,311)

Reducing class sizes

Plan Summary:

Class size reduction has been a focus district-wide. The district has already seen progress with this initiative as demonstrated by a recent Nassau BOCES class size study (BOCES - December, 2022), where the median class size for k through 6 is the lowest in Nassau County.



Multiple staff have been added to cover those class sections in all core subject areas. Additional staff are also being hired for the elementary schools to support smaller class sizes.

Foundation Aid allocation: ($2,265,894)

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

Plan Summary:

The district has added additional staff to focus on student needs and behaviors associated with academic performance. More specifically, the district has added two attendance coordinators at our high school building to monitor and provide immediate follow-ups and mitigation on attendance issues. Further, an additional guidance counselor has been integrated into our high school program, splitting their time between regular high school matters and students that have demonstrated at risk behaviors in their academic program.

Foundation Aid allocation: ($269,956)

Addressing Student Social-Emotional Health

Plan Summary:

While mental health supports for students have always been at the forefront for Baldwin Union Free School District teachers, staff, and families, in the aftermath of the pandemic crisis, the district recognizes the urgency for a greater response and coordination to continue addressing a wide-variety of needs. In addition to the continuation of providing social-emotional support to all students through our multidisciplinary team of district teachers, social workers, psychologists,

guidance counselors, nurses, administrators, parents and community partners, we are also supplementing our staff with additional supports, in particular by the addition of two "Mindfulness Teachers for k-5, as well as by partnering with a community organization in an effort to open "Wellness Centers" located on our high school, and middle school campuses. These Wellness Centers will be staffed by social/psych support staff and be run in conjunction with our health office in each building providing needed immediate supports to students having difficulty navigating their day-to-day.

Foundation Aid allocation: ($535,160)

Providing adequate resources to English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

Plan Summary:

We are enhancing our English New Language (ENL) program to continue to support our ELL students throughout the district. We are also continuing to support our students with disabilities by through our PPS office and related staff in order to meet the evolving needs of our students. We also ensure our special education populations are met with the services needed through participation in outplacements. This is an additional cost to the district, but ensures the students are provided the most appropriate educational experience.

Foundation Aid allocation: ($4,201,044)

Detailed summaries of investments in current year initiatives and balance funds spent in priority areas.

Plan Summary:

The district's priorities for the 2023-24 school year include the following areas:

Enhance Facilities

Projects to enhance the facilities through the use of additional funding. These include infrastructure and systems upgrades and replacements to ensure improved ventilation in our school buildings.

Community Engagement

The district continues its outreach efforts through numerous communication tools and initiatives. Periodic publishing of our "Baldwin Beat" and other newsletters provides the students, families and the community at large with timely updates on various matters within the district.

Technology Upgrades

The district has invested in addition technology supports (i.e. laptops/Chromebooks) to help support teaching initiatives aimed at addressing the aforementioned areas. These technology supports provide our teaching staff with additional tools to help further differentiate learning strategies and support positive outcomes for all student groups.

The community has demonstrated support for such initiatives as they are targeted at our student population throughout the district.

Foundation Aid allocation: ($541,344)