

Wheatland-Chili Central Schools

Foundation Aid Funding Plan 2023 - 2024

Introduction

The 2021-2022 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 per 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 support 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.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Wheatland-Chili Central School District is receiving a foundation aid increase of 13.97% or \$658,692.

Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap.

Plan Summary:

During a time of unprecedented uncertainty amidst the transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic, students need a higher level of support and guidance. As educators, we must identify how to effectively support students in this current state. Students need interaction with faculty and peers to stay connected and to build community. We are committed to recognizing the needs of our students and helping all students succeed no matter what their academic path.

Funds will be used to support the budget to continue funding various academic intervention services and other academic and support programs, after-school and summer programming, and the acquisition of technology-enhanced learning tools.

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 will reinforce programs, services and implement data informed strategies to identify and support at-risk students.

Funds will be used for maintaining staff for academic support district-wide in order to address some of the learning gaps that have widened during the pandemic. The District will continue the use of iReady as well as other data driven diagnostics to assess individual student progress to make informed decisions on providing additional supports, as necessary.

Addressing student social-emotional health.

Plan Summary:

The mental health of our students is at the forefront of all our decision-making. Our teachers, school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses are prepared to support our students' emotional needs. We recognize that the pandemic has been a traumatic and overwhelming experience. Whether students have been affected directly or indirectly by the virus itself, all of our students have experienced a loss of time with friends, missed celebrations, and are returning to school with varying levels of uncertainty and fear.

Funds will be used to continue to support interventions and other supports in place for students identified who may be at-risk for mental health concerns.

Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities (SWD), and students experiencing homelessness.

Plan Summary:

The Wheatland-Chili Central School District is committed to continuing to identify and serve English Language Learners. Whether in person or an alternative format, instructional and support staff will continue implementing TESOL strategies to address ELL students' academic and language needs.

All SWD will be provided with the provisions of FAPE that coincide with the specific educational needs identified for each child. These needs will be addressed through programming at a Wheatland-Chili building, whenever possible, or at an outplacement designed to ensure students are provided with the best educational experience.

Funds will be used to support the current staffing and programs in place.

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary:

Supporting our students during the pandemic and beyond will draw on many of the skills students use day-to-day to provide emotional and academic support and guidance. We must build on prior knowledge and experience, offering further guidance on things to keep in mind when planning for additional transitions and talking to students, followed by more practical tools and strategies to rebuild relationships and support all students.

Community input was provided during public meetings and workshops as part of the 2023-2024 budget development process.

The district sought public comments at its the May 2, 2023 budget hearing. Public comments also were received during previous budget presentations. The Foundation Aid Funding Plan is posted on the district's website and public comments are welcomed.

If you would like to submit comments regarding the Foundation Aid Funding Plan, please email the District Communications Office at communications@wheatland.k12.ny.us.