

**Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase****Background/Instructions**

---

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

**Background and Instructions**Background

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: 05/16/2023

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	Class sizes had increased two years ago when the district's initial budget failed to pass. The revised budget which passed on the second round had increased class sizes as a result of reductions that were made. Reducing class sizes was a board goal for 23-24	Based on a community survey, reducing elementary class sizes was something they wished to see addressed in the budget. This was the highest priority	400000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	Twilight Program: Adding the alternative learning environment will allow student access to the academic and emotional support required to be successful. Home Tutoring: With increased need to support students when home during instructional periods. We provide additional support to help students stay on task with in class progress and identify and address gaps. Instructional Coaches and Reading Teachers: Action plans are designed by teachers and specialists to meet a targeted goal. Action steps are clearly defined, resources are listed, and deadlines are set for reflection and reevaluation. Our Data and Intervention Coordinator works closely with teachers and specialists to design and monitor action plans to meet the needs of each individual student. Our Instructional Coaches work closely with classroom teachers to differentiate Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction.	Social, emotional and overall mental health services provided was noted in the community survey as important for the budget to address. This was the second highest priority	554000
Addressing student social-emotional health	Maintain guidance counselor and social worker staff levels to support student mental health. Without the increased foundation these positions would have been removed	Social, emotional and overall mental health services provided was noted in the community survey as important for the budget to address. This was the second highest priority	257000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing	New 6:1:1 program: Annual CSE meetings determined the need for specific student ratio programs. This additional teacher is in	Although not specifically addressed in the survey, support for the key goals has been recieved from the community as these	1361000

Foundation Aid Increase Survey - Foundation Aid Increase

Use of Foundation Aid Increase Survey

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

	Key Goals, Metrics, or Ratios (250 words or less)	Community Feedback Reflected (250 words or less)	New Foundation Aid Funds to Support Initiative (\$)
homelessness	place as the needs for incoming kindergarten class has the expected need to be in a 6:1:1 program. Each year an Annual Review will be conducted to determine the placement needs of each child. This includes a teacher, increase in related services, and transportation. Supervisor for Special education: An increase in the number of special education students/programs in the district increases the need for supervision. Board Certified Behavior Consultant: This additional Staff member will follow students with Mandated IEP services, such as behavior plans, conduct functional behavior assessments, provide modeling with regards to instruction of students with autism. This position is based on CSE recommendations. Increase in 1:1 Nursing and OOD placement Costs: Number of students with significant medical needs has increased.	programs have been developed and implemented.	

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 (\$)
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

Use of Foundation Aid Increase (Cont.)

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

---

Page Last Modified: 05/16/2023

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)**

Each year as part of the budget process, a survey is distributed to the community and staff to collect feedback on the various programs and initiatives they want the budget to support. The choices include items such as reducing class size, mental health support, elective and extracurricular offerings for students, security, UPK, facilities and cybersecurity upgrades. Respondents are asked to prioritize items such as these. The results are reviewed, compared to board goals and discussions are had about what can or cannot be supported financially. For 23-24, particularly with the infusion of additional foundation aid, many of the board goals below, which aligned with results from the survey, were able to be achieved.

- Continue to support all existing programs K-12
- Reduce elementary class sizes that were increased in 2021-22
- Expand Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Enhance program with new course offerings and academic support for struggling students
- Upgrade technology infrastructure and enhance cybersecurity
- Improve district facilities through several capital projects
- Expand and enhance security across the district
- Provide ongoing professional development training for faculty and staff

The survey results are shared publicly with the community as part of the budget development process and are also included in all budget presentations to the community after the board has adopted its budget.