

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

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**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

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**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	Keeping K-4 class sizes low and consistent Districtwide by maintaining positions funded by CRRSA. This support improves the academic foundation for our students. This priority is tied to providing supports for students who are struggling or at-risk academically. It is also tied to eliminating the achievement gap and increasing the District's graduation rate.	Academics and staffing were 2 of the top 5 themes in the Foundation Aid survey that was conducted. Additionally, these positions were funded by CRRSA, which also incorporated community input.	3,400,000
Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas	N/A	N/A	0
Addressing student social-emotional health	To expand and standardize the utilization of restorative practices throughout the District.	Expanding social and emotional supports for students was one of the top 5 areas of concern in the survey. It is also a topic that is often discussed within the school community.	100,000
Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness	Improve transportation service Districtwide, especially to better support out-of-district student placements, as well as students who experience homelessness. Fifteen new buses have been added to the 2023-24 transportation plan.	The District began the 2022-23 school year with severe transportation issues. Transportation was a recurring topic of conversation and concern throughout the year.	3,000,000

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 (\$)
Safety	Improve student and staff safety Districtwide, through additional staffing	Safety was the top theme in the survey and has been an ongoing topic of	400,000

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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 (\$)
	and support services.	conversation in the community.	

**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)**

In addition to the community feedback given during public comment at BOE meetings and after budget presentations and other meetings, the District utilized a survey tool to collect and analyze stakeholder input about the increased Foundation Aid allocated to Kingston CSD for 2023-24. The survey was sent to all parents and staff, as well as community partners.

Of the 576 participants, 37% are staff members, 54% are parents/guardians and 9% are community members. Participation was greatest at Kingston High School (35%), with the two middle schools at 17% and 21%, and the seven elementary buildings at just under 10% of the response group.

The top five areas of concern communicated in the survey (in order) were:

1. Safety and Security
2. Social and Emotional Resources
3. Academics
4. Facilities
5. Staffing

The only area that is not a part of this plan is Facilities. The BOE approved a Districtwide Capital Reinvestment Plan for \$162.5M to address the infrastructure in every school in the District, except Kingston High School and Meagher, which recently had substantial capital improvements. The capital project was approved by the voters, and will address all the concerns expressed in the survey.