

State Budget Reporting and Foundation Aid Survey - Budget Reporting

Background/Instructions

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Background and Instructions

Background

Section 9-a of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2021, as amended by §5-a of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022 requires, on or before July 1, 2022, every local educational agency (LEA) receiving funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) act of 2021 to post on its website and submit to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) an updated plan of how such funds will be expended and how the LEA will prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses as defined in section 9-a(1) of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2021. This updated plan must include:

- An analysis of public comment;
- Goals and ratios for pupil support;
- Detailed summaries of Investments in current year activities; and
- Balance of funds spent in priority areas.

In addition, 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 must create plans on how these funds will be used to address student performance and need. These plans must be completed, submitted to the department, and posted to district websites prior to July 1 of 2021, 2022, and 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 any of seven listed areas;
- 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.

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 and ARP Plan ~~Non-Instructional 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, including portions of the increase used to address any of the following seven areas:

- Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap;
- Reducing class sizes;

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- 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)**

The public and employees understood the need to pay competitive wages to attract and retain both support and professional staff. Transportation is an ongoing concern of the community because of the severe driver shortage. Both employees and the public identified mental health and social emotional learning as concerns and well as recovery from the severe pandemic driven learning loss. Between the Foundation Aid increases and utilization of federal stimulus funds these were all areas of significant growth in district support.

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ARP Spending Plan Reporting

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American Rescue Plan (ARP) Spending Plan Reporting

1. Have you made changes to your approved ARP - ESSER application?

- YES, the LEA has made changes to your approved ARP ESSER application.
- NO, the LEA has not made changes to your approved ARP ESSER application.

2. Please provide an analysis of public comment for the updated American Rescue Plan (ARP) - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding.

Both the community and teachers provided feedback in a Thought Exchange, board meetings, the Budget Advisory Council and at a community budget forum. The main areas of priority are an increase in wages to attract and retain the needed bus drivers, hourly support staff and professional teachers. In addition, mental health and learning recovery were identified as significant areas of importance. Community responses, in addition to employee retention and adequate staffing focused on mental health support, smaller class sizes, and academic support. Employees stressed the need for higher wages for both hourly and teaching staff for retention and attraction of qualified employees as well as a focus on behavioral and mental health issues, academic support and smaller class sizes.

3. Please provide a description of program goals and per pupil teacher ratios for priorities supported by ARP - ESSER funding. Click on "Add Row" as needed to include additional program goals.

Program Goals	Per Pupil Teacher Ratios (# : #)
Foundation aid was utilized to maintain board goals for class sizes. Class size targets were exceeded at the beginning of the pandemic until federal stimulus funds were made available to the state (increased foundation aid) and directly to schools.	15 at primary, 22 at intermediate and 24 at secondary

4. Please provide detailed summaries of investments in current year activities for ARP - ESSER funding. Click on "Add Row" as needed to include programs.

Summary of New Programs or Expansion of Existing Programs in Current Year	Investment (\$)
Expanded academic coaches to address learning loss, and increased number of teachers to meet classroom size targets and allow additional academic intervention support services. Added counselors and tutoring and additional social emotional supports. Implemented enhanced summer and remote learning opportunities.	2405000

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Spending Plan Reporting

5. Please explain how ARP ESSER funds will be expended by the LEA, by school year, for each of the priority areas in the chart below.

	2021-22 School Year (\$)	2022-23 School Year (\$)	2023-24 School Year (\$)
Safely returning students to in-person instruction.	185,000	185,000	0
Maximizing in-person instruction time.	0	0	0
Operating schools and meeting the needs of students.	1,100,000	1,940,000	0
Purchasing educational technology.	300,000	300,000	0
Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness.	490,000	490,000	0
Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental	875,000	875,000	0

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