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**2023-24 School Year Plan for
Increase in State Aid, Foundation Aid**

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. 2023-24 is the final year that this requirement is in effect. 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 priority areas
- Post the plan on the district website
- Submit the plan to NYSED in a form prescribed by NYSED to be posted publicly

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, Rye Neck UFSD sought public input on the development of a plan for the use of the increase in Foundation Aid (which was greater than 10% of the 2022-23 school year) for the district for the 2023-24 school year.

Rye Neck [previously sought input](#) from parents, teachers and other stakeholders both in May 2021 and December 2022 about the uses of the Foundation Aid increases.

Related to the 2023-24 Foundation Aid increase, at the October 6, 2022 Planning Session of the Rye Neck Board of Education, district administrators gave a [presentation](#) which discussed both the use of the pandemic federal funding as well as the anticipated 2023-24 increase in Foundation Aid funding. In the presentation, it was noted that the district was, again, seeking community feedback about usage of this increase via a survey. A four-question survey, modeled after a survey prepared by NYSED, was emailed to all families and staff on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 via Google Forms. In addition to three demographic questions, the fourth and final survey question asked respondents, “As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year, how should Rye Neck use the estimated increase in Foundation Aid?”

Seventy (70) responses were received (67 to the survey in English, 3 to the survey in Spanish). Uses of the increase in Foundation Aid funding was also discussed in the bi-monthly district administrator meetings as well as at the 2023-24 public budget discussions on February 15, March 15, April 19 and May 3, 2023.

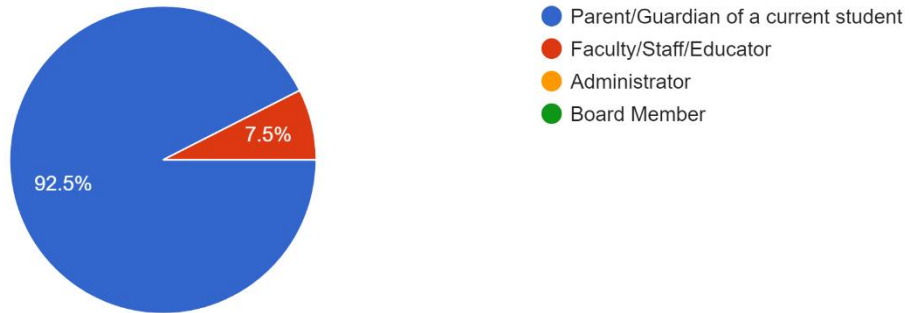
The results of the October 2022 Foundation Aid survey are summarized below:

Question #1: What is the primary role you play in Rye Neck education?

- The majority (92.5%) of the responses were from parents/guardians.

What is the primary role you play in Rye Neck education?

67 responses

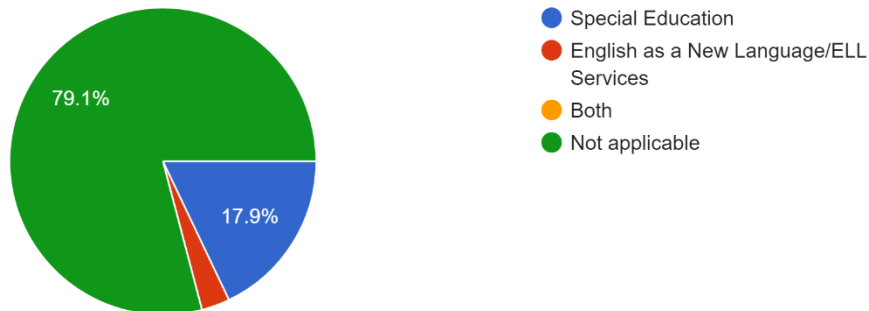


Question #2: If you are a parent or guardian, are any of your children receiving services in the following programs?

- 79.1% of the respondents were from those who are not a part of the special education population.
- 17.9% of the respondents represented students in special education programs.
- 3.0% of the respondents represented students classified as ELL learners.

If you are a parent or guardian, are any of your children receiving services in the following programs?

67 responses

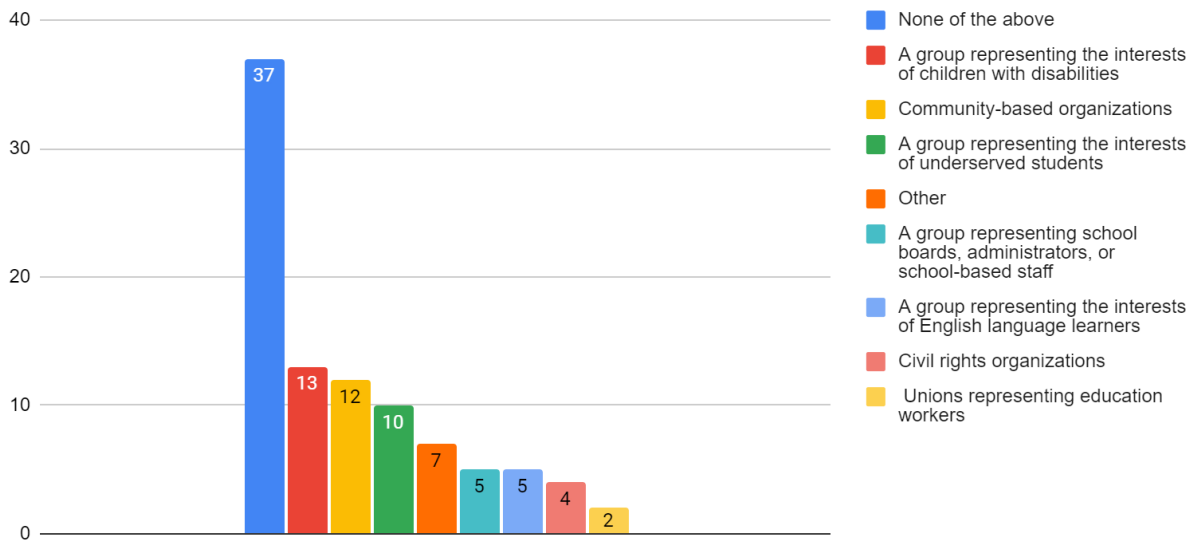


Question #3: Which of the following stakeholder groups, if any, do you identify with? You may select more than one.

Of the 70 respondents:

- The majority of respondents (37) did not represent a listed stakeholder group.
- Thirteen (13) of the respondents represented students with disabilities
- Twelve (12) of the respondents represented community based organizations
- Ten (10) of the respondents represented the interests of underserved students.
- Other respondents totaled 23 and represented school boards, administrators and school based staff, unions, ELL learners, civil rights organizations, and other groups.

Note that some respondents categorized themselves into more than one group.



Question #4: As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year, how should Rye Neck use the estimated \$600,000 increase in Foundation Aid? ***

*** At the time the survey was released, \$600,000 was the best estimate of the increase. 2023-24 state aid runs had not been released, so this figure was based on Foundation Aid increases in prior school years.

- The last question in the survey was open-ended and allowed respondents to write in suggestions as to how funding should be used. The majority of responses included more than one item.

Category	% of Responses
Buildings/Infrastructure/Fields	22.9%
Extracurricular/Sports/Other Activities	20.0%
Academics	18.6%
Mental Wellness/Social Emotional Resources	18.6%
Personnel/Staffing	18.6%
Student Support/Tutoring/AIS	15.7%
Food Service/Food Security	11.4%
Security/Safety	8.6%
Special Education	8.6%
College Prep	5.7%
Language Program	5.7%
Low Cost Extracurricular/Other Costs	5.7%
Technology	5.7%
Outdoor Spaces	5.7%
Address Learning Loss	5.7%
Music Program	4.3%
Lower Taxes	4.3%
Summer Programs	2.9%
Reserve Funds/Savings	2.9%
Going "Green" Initiatives	2.9%
Materials/Supplies	2.9%
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	1.4%

In consideration of the responses received via the survey in addition to internal discussions with administrators, teachers, and other staff and feedback received during meetings, Rye Neck’s plan for the use of the increase in 2023-24 Foundation Aid funding is as follows:

Foundation Aid Plan 2023-24

The \$914,370 estimated increase in 2023-24 Foundation Aid represents an anticipated recurring funding source from the state to the district. Therefore, Rye Neck focused on utilizing the funds for recurring and fiscally sustainable expenses. In developing the plan for using these funds, the district's goal was to ensure that the funds support all students.

Priority Area:

The below **academic supports** will help to increase graduation rates and eliminate the achievement gap as well as provide supports for students who are not meeting, or who are at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas, and provide adequate resources to English language learners and students with disabilities:

- **New staffing, High impact tutoring**
 - **Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios:** To ensure that the district can meet state mandated AIS support for students in grades 3-5 due to growth in student population who require AIS.
 - **Community Feedback:** Per the community survey, there were requests for more academic support as well as specific requests for additional AIS services.
 - **New Foundation Aid Funds:**
 - \$95,000: One, full time elementary AIS Reading Teacher (1.0 FTE) for general education students who need additional support. This position improves the district's elementary English Language Arts (ELA). Cost is an estimation for salary and benefits.
 - \$10,000: Stipends for after school middle school math and reading tutoring for grades 6-8 students.

- **New staffing, Special Education**
 - **Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios:** To ensure that the district can meet the needs of its special education population.
 - **Community Feedback:** Per the community survey, there were requests for academic support and special education support.
 - **New Foundation Aid Funds:**
 - \$145,370: One and a half full time (1.5 FTE) special education staff including 1.3 FTE special education elementary teachers and 0.2 FTE middle school special education staff. Cost is an estimation for salary and benefits.

- **New staffing, High School, School Counselor**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: To decrease the student:school counselor ratio so that school counselors can provide more support to the high school student population. Total high school counselors will increase to four (4) from three (3).
 - Community Feedback: Per the community survey, there were requests for academic support as well as additional resources for college preparation and assistance for students through the counseling process.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$52,000 (half of total estimated cost of \$104,000): One full time high school guidance counselor, who will advise and counsel students regarding academic and educational topics, assist students in developing academic plans, provide students and families with information on career and educational supports, guide students through the college process, and teach school counseling related curriculum. Cost is an estimation for salary and benefits. The other half is included in the social-emotional well-being section below.

- **New elementary math curriculum**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: To ensure that the district is providing the most effective and current math curriculum for its elementary age students.
 - Community Feedback: Per the community survey, there were requests to use the funds for academic purposes.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$80,000: Estimated cost for a new elementary math curriculum for grades K-5. Three curriculums were piloted through grant funding in 2022-23.

- **Summer 2023 High School credit recovery program**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: To provide high school students who passed a regents exam but failed the related class an opportunity to take the course over in order to pass and earn course credit.
 - Community Feedback: Per the community survey, there were requests for various academic supports, tutoring, and summer programs.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$20,000: Stipends for teachers and support staff to run a summer credit recovery program for high school students.

Priority area:

The below supports will help address students' social-emotional well-being:

- **Effective School Solutions (ESS) in-house therapeutic support program**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: Identifying students that may need additional emotional supports that would not have been detected without a partnership with ESS. Providing mental wellness and social emotional training for staff.
 - Community Feedback: Mental wellness and social emotional resources and supports for students was one of the most frequently mentioned items in the community survey.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$100,000: ESS will partner with Rye Neck to provide programs, professional learning, and consulting services which will help Rye Neck introduce mental wellness best practices and build a mental wellness continuum that supports the needs of every student. Total cost for ESS for the 2023-24 school year is \$274,400 however this total cost includes a component for individual therapeutic support programs for students that would otherwise not be able to remain in-district.

- **New staffing, High School, School Counselor**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: To decrease the student:school counselor ratio so that the school counselors can provide more social emotional support to the high school student population. Total high school counselors will increase to four (4) from three (3).
 - Community Feedback: Mental wellness and social emotional resources and supports for students was one of the most frequently mentioned items in the community survey.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$52,000 (half of total cost of \$104,000): One full time high school guidance counselor, as mentioned above who, in addition to academics, will assist with advising and counseling students regarding social and emotional topics as well as support social and emotional learning. Cost is an estimation for salary and benefits. The other half is included in the academic support section above.

- **Mental wellness presentations**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: To provide enrichment to the district’s social emotional and mental wellness initiatives by bringing in outside speakers to discuss mental wellness with students.
 - Community Feedback: Mental wellness, social emotional resources and supports for students was one of the most frequently mentioned items in the community survey.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$10,000: Allocation for mental wellness presentations/speakers for middle and high school students. This was previously paid from federal COVID grant funds which are anticipated to be depleted by the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Priority Area:

Other areas based on community feedback and internal discussions:

- **Transfer to capital fund**
 - Key Goals, Metrics or Ratios: To provide a safer way for students who arrive to the MS/HS campus on foot or bike to enter campus. As Rye Neck is a non-bussing district, many students come to school via foot or bike. This transfer will also provide greater safety and security at the high school entrance.
 - Community Feedback: Improvements to buildings, infrastructure and fields was the most mentioned item in the community survey. Safety and security measures was also a frequently mentioned item.
 - New Foundation Aid Funds:
 - \$350,000: Transfer to capital for security and safety related projects including making a part of the temporary parking lot at the Middle/High School campus permanent and restoring the student bike and walking path as well as making security layout changes to the high school main entrance.