

Brighton Central School District
Use and Priority for Foundation Aid Increase

Throughout the 2022-23 budget development process, the District planned for an increase in Foundation Aid up to 80% of the Total Foundation Aid payable to the District. This resulted in a budgeted Foundation Aid increase of approximately \$2.8 million, or 27%.

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. The plans require the District 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.

Through the 2022-23 Budget Development Process and considering public feedback provided in the community ThoughtExchange, Community Budget Forums, faculty meetings, the District has allocated portions of the Foundation Aid increase to the following priority areas:

1. Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap – **\$125,000**: with the addition of an administrative position in Student Services, the District seeks to close the achievement gap for students with disabilities. The administrator will be tasked with designing and supervising intervention strategies and participate in the development of special education programming whereby all students can succeed.
2. Reducing class sizes – **\$780,000**: The budgeted increase in Foundation Aid allowed the District to maintain a smaller class size at the K-5 level. The projected student teacher ratios were discretely presented during the budget presentations. In addition, the District was able to maintain a wide array of electives at the high school level, include numerous AP classes. The District estimate that 10 teaching positions were maintained.
3. Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas – **\$1,300,000**: The emerging needs of students requires specialized programs that the District cannot currently offer. In programs that the District could support, two additional teachers

were added. The additional Foundation Aid provides funding to meet the appropriate program requirements and related costs including transportation.

4. Addressing student social-emotional health – **\$250,000**: Additional Foundation Aid for the 2022-23 school year has allowed the District to maintain student support staffing. The increase in funding also allowed the District to continue to work with outside agencies supporting the mental well-being and social-emotional needs of students. Resources in this area will also be included in spending plans for federal stimulus grants received by the District.
5. Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness – **\$115,000**: The addition of the Director of Student and Family Engagement was made possible by the increase in Foundation Aid. Maintaining connections with struggling families and coordinating resources is essential to the success of students with such significant challenges outside of school.
6. Investments in current year initiatives – **\$350,000**: The budgeted Foundation Aid increase allowed the District to continue to invest in the development of our instructional technology. The District plans to hire two teachers for technology integration and one data applications specialist. With the expansion of instructional technology, there is an increased risk to data privacy and security. To mitigate these risks, the District has allocated new Foundation Aid funds to increase cyber security infrastructure and defenses.