

Brighton Central School District

Use and Priority for Foundation Aid Increase

Throughout the 2023-24 budget development process, the District planned for an increase in Foundation Aid equal to the Total Foundation Aid payable to the District. This resulted in a budgeted Foundation Aid increase of approximately \$5.9 million, or 44%. This amount includes a Foundation Aid per Pupil adjustment of 7.1%.

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;
 - (i) increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap; (ii) reducing class sizes; (iii) providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas; (iv) addressing student social-emotional health; (v) providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities; and students experiencing homelessness; (vi) goals and ratios for pupil support; and (vii) detailed summaries of investments in current year initiatives and balance funds spent in priority 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.

During the 2023-24 Budget Development Process and considering public feedback provided in the community budget forums, ThoughtExchange, and 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 – **\$750,000**: The District is proposing to add instructional leadership positions with the objective of designing and supervising instructional and intervention strategies to ensure that all students can succeed. These positions include: Instructional Leader at both CRPS and FRES, Literacy Intervention Specialist, Math Intervention Specialist, Math Intervention Leader, and Reading Teacher.
2. Reducing class sizes – **\$950,000**: The budgeted increase in Foundation Aid allowed the District to maintain 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 is budgeting for 4 new teaching positions and maintaining 6 positions that would have otherwise been reduced in lieu of other inflationary pressures and mandated services.

3. Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas – **\$1,250,000**: The emerging needs of students requires specialized programs that the District cannot currently offer. In programs that the District is equipped to 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 – **\$350,000**: Additional Foundation Aid for the 2023-24 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 have previously been funded by federal stimulus grants received by the District.
5. Investments in current year initiatives – **\$2,600,000**: The budgeted Foundation Aid increase not allocated to new programming, or teaching positions currently funded with federal stimulus dollars, is outlined below:
 - I. Maintaining the Alternative Instructional Model (AIM) which provides supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas – \$550,000
 - II. The current year addition of the Director of Student and Family Engagement provides adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness – \$115,000
 - III. Targeted administrative and tutoring support to oversee and build academic intervention programming designed to provide supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas – \$375,000
 - IV. Continuation of youth prevention, intervention, social work, and family navigation services at the 3-12 level addresses student social-emotional health to students and families – \$560,000
 - V. Continuity of effort for core academic programming. The remainder of the increase in Foundation Aid is to preserve academic programming and extracurricular offerings by offsetting the contractual labor increase and cost escalations in non-instructional areas (e.g. utilities, contract transportation, BOCES tuition rates, etc.)