

Garden City Union Free School District - Foundation Aid Plan for 2022-23 Budget

The 2022-23 enacted New York State budget included a foundation aid increase of approximately \$684,863 or 16% over the 2021-22 foundation aid amount. This increase is an effort to bring our district closer to our full foundation aid allocation, which is anticipated to occur in the 2023-24 school year. In accordance with Section D10 of the authorization for these funds, provided below is a statement of the proposed use of the funds to address student performance and need, specifically in the following areas:

Category		Comments	Allocation
Eliminating achievement gap	<p>The additional foundation aid will enable the district to help eliminate the achievement gap. The district budget includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the 2020-21 school year, the district refined the MTSS process to monitor and analyze student performance data to provide targeted supports in the area of reading and mathematics. In the 2022-23 school year it will be expanded to behavior. 2. Additional data collecting and analysis measures and services to identify target areas for remedial and enrichment instruction (i.e., NWEA, Achieve 3000). 3. Instructional technology tools to support struggling learners, to provide for multiple pathways to learning, and support students with additional cognitive, developmental, and academic resources, applications, and devices for use at school and at home. (i.e., Chromebook replacement and applications). 	<p>Parents expressed a desire for the district to use a multi-tiered approach for student data analysis which aligns with the state standards.</p> <p>Teachers are confident the NWEA and other diagnostic tools are a valuable resource in evaluating and assessing student performance.</p> <p>Parents, teachers and administrators provided feedback on technology and use in the classroom. The uniformity of the 1:1 device is imperative to ensure all students have the same classroom experience.</p>	\$145,300

<p>Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas.</p>	<p>The additional foundation aid will enable the district to provide support to students who are not meeting and or at risk of not meeting the state learning standards in core academic subjects through a variety of means. The district budget includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allocations for new math academic resources for students in grades K-2 as well as materials to pilot new resources in grades 3-5. The allocation also provides for intensive professional development for teachers aimed at addressing closing instructional deficits, and targeted, focused, academic interventions. 2. The district will be analyzing the writing curriculum to strengthen our program through targeted professional development and other resources. 	<p>The district formed a committee to analyze math resources for use in the classroom. The committee included parents, teachers, special education educators and other subject matter experts. Feedback was that math materials must foster broad thinking and problem-solving development.</p> <p>Feedback on professional development support was positive from community and staff.</p>	<p>\$237,000</p>
<p>Addressing student social-emotional health.</p>	<p>The additional foundation aid enabled the district to direct more resources toward addressing student social-emotional health. The district budget includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the 2020-21 school year, we added a partnership with Northwell to address ongoing mental health needs. For the 2022-23 school year, we will be continuing these services. These supports include expedited psychiatric evaluations for students and families in a friendly clinic atmosphere, provide extended clinical resources to families and school, as well as provide individual counseling services. 2. Social emotional screener was purchased for all high school students and students on transitional grade levels. 	<p>Feedback from staff and clinicians has been excellent. They share that the facility and services are friendly, inviting, professional and well received by our students.</p> <p>Feedback from parents on SE screener has been positive since this was a direct response to their request. Students appreciate that we consider their mental health and staff finds it valuable information.</p>	<p>\$152,850</p>

	<p>3. Funds will also be used to support increased clubs on the elementary level in grades 2-5. These are based on student interest and help foster positive interactions between students with likeminded interests.</p>	<p>Parents and students provided feedback that the additional club opportunities are well received. Very positive supports for our students.</p>	
<p>Providing adequate resources to students with disabilities.</p>	<p>The additional foundation aid will enable the district to provide additional resources to special education students. The district budget includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This aid allows the district to expand our continuum of services to special education students. 2. Assistant Director of PPS moved to a 12-month employee. This allows for the assistant director to work over the summer which will provide better coordination for the upcoming school year. This is a valuable resource for parents as they plan to transition their child to the next school year. 	<p>Parents, staff and teachers comment that our increased staffing with administrative support, psychologists and other clinicians has been invaluable to student success.</p>	<p>\$149,713</p>

Please address all comments regarding this plan to Dana DiCapua at dicapua@gcufsd.net.

The plan items stated above were discussed at the Board of Education Meetings on March 8, 2022, March 22, 2022, and April 11, 2022. It was also presented at the PTA meeting on May 11, 2022.