



# Florida UFSD Foundation Aid



Florida Union Free School District:

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

JUNE 15, 2023

# What is Foundation Aid?



Foundation Aid is the state's main fund source for school districts. Enacted in 2007-08, Foundation Aid is a progressive formula that is structured to send more money to schools with high-need students. In 2021 the state agreed to fully cover the costs that the Foundation Aid formula required for the final three years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24.

What does this mean for our District? Florida UFSD will receive the state's full foundation aid allotment.

***However, it is unknown at this time how the state will determine funding amounts for schools going forward.***

# How Does the Foundation Aid Formula Work?



The state funded about \$2.6 billion in Foundation Aid for the 2023-24 school year, out of a total of \$34 billion in school aid for public schools.

There are four factors that go into determining how much Foundation Aid each school district gets each year. In a greatly simplified form, they are:

- The cost of educating a student
- Differing levels of student needs
- Different costs of living across the state
- The varying funding capacities of different districts

# How is Foundation Aid Calculated?

## I AID PROGRAMS A. FOUNDATION AID

[NYSEL §3602 (2 and 4), and §211-d]  
(2022-23 Estimated Total - \$21,344.7 Million)

Foundation Aid, first enacted in 2007-08, is the largest unrestricted aid category supporting public school district expenditures in New York State. This year it represents approximately 68.4% of the total State Aid received by districts statewide.

### 1. TOTAL FOUNDATION AID CALCULATION

Total Foundation Aid has three main components:



- i. A State-specified expenditure per pupil, called the Adjusted Foundation Amount, to which the State and school districts will contribute.
- ii. A State-specified Expected Minimum Local Contribution per pupil (based on a computed tax rate or local share formula) representing each district's contribution to the Adjusted Foundation Amount per pupil.
- iii. The number of Selected Total Aidable Foundation Pupil Units (TAFPU) in the district.
- iv. A calculation of Total Foundation Aid based on the previous components



# NYSED Requirements Include:

Any district receiving a foundation aid increase of more than 10% or \$10,000,000 is required to create plans of how these funds will be used to address specific priorities. These districts are 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 comment within the plan
- Describe in the plan how foundation aid (increase only) will apply to priority areas via the “*Foundation Aid Increase Survey*”
- Post the plan on the district website
- Submit the plan to NYSED in the form prescribed by NYSED to be publicly posted by July 1, 2023

# NYSED (5) Priority Areas:

NYSED developed a “Foundation Aid Increase Survey” that identifies five priority areas necessary to report information. They are:

1. Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness
2. Addressing student social-emotional health
3. Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas
4. Reducing class sizes
5. Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap



***Florida UFSD Foundation Aid Increase of \$824,309 (18.2%) for the 2023-24 School Year***

# Priority Areas:



- 1. *Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness***
  - a. The district provides both in-district and out-of-district resources. The out-of-district resources include Orange-Ulster BOCES (Special Education & Newcomer Programs). *Allocated Amount: \$219,000*
  
- 2. *Addressing student social-emotional health***
  - a. The district will continue to provide mental health staff covering both buildings in the district. IDT services are provided through Orange-Ulster BOCES. Staff, student, parent and community programs are included. *Allocated Amount: \$127,237*
  
- 3. *Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas***
  - a. In order to meet the needs of these students the district provides additional support at all levels but especially at the elementary school and middle school levels. *Allocated Amount: \$247,360*

# Priority Areas (continued):



## **4. Reducing class sizes**

- a. To meet this goal the district has maintained its staffing levels in spite of declining enrollment. Staff has been distributed to areas of greatest needs. *Allocated Amount: \$190,832*

## **5. Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap**

- a. The District will offer a summer school program within the district for middle school students. The District plans to purchase an online/computer assessment for measuring student achievement and growth. *Allocated Amount: \$39,880*



# FOUNDATION AID:

Increase of \$824,309 for the 2023-24 School Year:



- How will this Increase in aid be distributed?
  - \$219,000 allocated towards supporting our programs for English Language Learners and students with disabilities
  - \$127,237 allocated towards providing mental health and social-emotional support of our students
  - \$287,240 allocated for supporting our students who are not meeting or at-risk of not meeting state learning standards as well increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap
  - \$190,832 allocated towards maintaining continuity of staff in the classroom

# District Contacts 2023-24:



**Dr. Lisamarie Spindler, Superintendent**

**Chris Slesinski, Business Official/Treasurer**

**Dana Castine, Director of Instructional Services**