

Buffalo Public Schools 2021-22 Foundation Aid Increase Plan

The 2021-22 enacted state budget included language stating that, for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, each school district receiving a foundation aid increase of more than ten percent or \$10,000,000 must post a plan for how the additional funds will be used to the district website prior to July 1 of each school year.

For Buffalo, the Foundation Aid increase helped eliminate a projected budget deficit. Below is a summary of the maintenance of existing programs or investment in new programs in the 2021-22 District budget relative to the \$43.3 million Foundation Aid increase:

Increasing graduation rates and eliminating the achievement gap – \$13.9 million:

Includes the maintenance or addition of 18 supplemental Assistant Principals; additional investments added to high needs schools (MST and Burgard); maintenance of Pathways Academy and Virtual Pathways; budgeted increases in transportation expense; increased budget in summer school and extended learning time; and further expansion of the Districts CLRI programming.

Reducing class sizes – \$5.1 million:

Includes maintenance of 36 elementary school teacher positions previously included in Title I, and 14 additional elementary school teacher positions, all of which were added under the Education Bargain's reduced class size initiative.

Providing supports for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards in core academic subject areas – \$1.6 million:

Includes adding 10 reading teachers, along with 6 other teachers in other core teaching areas.

Addressing student social-emotional health – \$0.5 million:

Includes 5 additional student support members including psychologists, social workers.

Providing adequate resources to English language learners, students with disabilities; and students experiencing homelessness – \$6.5 million:

Includes 14 additional Special Education staff members, maintenance of the full summer handicapped program budget, increases in special education contract supports, and additional administrative support for the multi-lingual department.

Other increases include \$8.0 million for contractual step increases for the Buffalo Teacher Federation members, and \$7.7 million in increases for charter school tuition.

The budget language states that, prior to posting such plan, each school district must seek public comment from parents, teachers and other stakeholders on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan. That meeting was held on June 24, 2021, and was incorporated herein.