The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes 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 to the district website prior to July 1 of each school year a plan by school year of how the funds will be used to address student performance and need, including but not limited to:

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

For the 2023-24 school year, the Freeport Union Free School District will be receiving a foundation aid increase of $30.4 million. After years of advocacy by Freeport Public Schools, along with other organizations, the state finally full fund the foundation aid (our fair share) over 3 years. The proposed increase of the foundation aid for 2023-2024 is a full restoration of the aid due to the district that has been deferred for many years. These funds offset the expenditure increase and the revenue shortfalls while also providing a tax levy decrease for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Increasing Graduation Rates and Eliminating the Achievement Gap**

The district will continue providing needed supports to students for further recovery from pandemic era lost in-person instructional time, that for some caused decreases in achievement. In an effort to combat learning loss, eliminate the achievement gap and ensure increases in the graduation rate funds have been allocated for a number of programs designed to meet the unique needs of the student population in Freeport Public Schools.

- Comprehensive and expanded Summer School programs Pre-K to Grade 12 to include academics, language, literacy, STEM, Athletics, intensive intervention in reading and elective classes.
- Increased opportunities for credit recovery for high school students who have fallen behind academically.
- Staffing increases to allow for additional Academic Intervention Services and small group differentiated instruction.
- After-school mentoring programs for High School Students focused on academic and program support.
- Significantly expanded after school programming K-12, including academic and social emotional support, enrichment, STEM, and fitness.
Reducing Class Sizes

The 2023-2024 budget includes additional staff for general education classrooms that will allow us to maintain current levels or lower-class size at each grade level. End of the year academic achievement data continues to be evaluated to identify academic needs in each grade level cohort to determine where class size reduction for core subject instruction is most needed.

Additional Staffing Supporting Programs and Services

The 2023-2024 budget includes additional staff for general education classrooms that will allow us to maintain current levels or lower-class size at each grade level. In an effort to combat learning loss, eliminate the achievement gap and ensure increases in the graduation rate, funds have been allocated to enhance number of programs designed to meet the unique needs of the student population in Freeport Public Schools.

- Additional ENL Teacher will support English Learner Learners at Bayview reducing student to teacher ratios to be consistent with the level of support provided within the other Magnet schools.
- Additional Reading Specialist will be provided targeted reading instruction to students. The additional reading teacher will reduce student teacher ratios and allow for higher level of support and service for students to reach proficiency.
- Additional Music Teacher will support students in receiving additional instrumental lessons and provides the appropriate staffing for the new Music Technology course to be offered to students.
- Provision of additional Science Teacher position will provide content specific Science instruction for English Language Learners (ELL) in conjunction with an ENL certified co-teacher. This position provides the required instructional support in line with Part 154 of the Commissioner’s regulations.
- Provision of Math Specialist for targeted Academic Intervention Services (AIS) for students to assist students in reaching grade level proficiency in mathematics through small group targeted instruction
- Additional Physical Education Teacher at FHS will assist in meeting the enrollment needs within the department and provide lower student to teacher ratios for both Health and Physical Education courses.
- Additional Art Teacher will provide the appropriate staffing projected within the Art department in the upcoming school year with the additional course offerings at Freeport High School which include: Sculpture I, uncoupling multi-level Art courses, additional programming for self-contained Special Education students.

Program Additions and Enhancements Addressing Student Social Emotional Health

In addition to maintaining all of the district’s current robust programming the following program additions and enhancements are being proposed for the 2023-2024 year.

- Full-time School Social Workers will be provided. The Social Workers will join our current PPS team at each building in providing social emotional learning to all students through various District adopted SEL programs such as Sources of Strength and SKY. School Social Workers will also provide mandated counseling services for students and assist our families in accessing all available school and community resources.
- Additional Guidance Counselor to provide Social Emotional Learning and student support to all students through whole class lessons as well through small group counseling. Work all students in grade 6 to create individual College and Career plans as required through the Commissioner’s Regulations.
- Provision of additional Administrative support for students, staff and families; helping to provide the necessary social emotional and academic learning support for all students.
- Provision of more Teaching Assistants are being added to provide additional Social Emotional and Academic support for our students.
- Flexible Furniture (All Buildings) - Classrooms Flexible furniture puts student at the center of learning and allows choice based on the objectives of lessons and tasks in the classroom. Flexible seating is known to have positive effects on well-being, mental health, engagement and college preparedness of students.
- English Language Arts Curriculum Materials Grades 9-10 - Into Literature- supporting reading, writing, speaking and listening skills required for success in tomorrow’s world. The resources work to develop a culture of self-actualized learning and will support learners with the foundation of engaged citizenship. These materials align with current curriculum being implemented in grades 7 and 8.
- Social Studies Curriculum Materials K-5 - New multi-year supplemental Social Studies program resources that will provide students with differentiated materials aligned to the New York State Social standards and C3 (College Career and Civic Life) Framework. These resources connect students to meaningful non-fiction authentic texts and content while also supporting reading and writing skills.
- Family Engagement and Communication Tool - A new communication platform to comply with EdLaw 2D and enhance communication between school and home and allow for messages to be sent in real time to an entire school, class, small group or single person.
- Continued Focus on Wellness with the Development of Student-Centered Wellness Spaces.
- New Modular Student Cafeteria Furniture/Learning Spaces for all Elementary Schools

**Capital Projects/Facilities Upgrade and Building Improvement**

The District proposed Capital Projects of $21.8 million, which is $12.9 million increase from $8.8 million proposed a year prior. The increase is due to planned additional district-wide capital projects offset by the increase in Foundation Aid with no impact on the tax levy. This is to support Capital Projects District-wide necessary to ensure our buildings are structurally sound, continuously improved and provide the support so that our students are in settings for optimal learning as per our long-term capital improvement plan.

- Roof Replacement
- HVAC Improvements-Classrooms/Large Spaces; Archer, FHS, District-Wide
- Masonry Restoration, Exterior Brick Repointing & Replacement and Waterproofing; Bayview, District-Wide
- Science Room/Classroom Renovations; FHS Security Upgrades/Interior & Exterior Doors & Hardware; Districtwide, window replacements as needed
- Grounds, Steps, Foundations, Sidewalks, Playgrounds, Fields, Parking Lots; Fence Work, District-wide
- HVAC Replacement and Drainage; FHS, Districtwide Renovation of Program Related; FHS, Districtwide
- Bathroom Renovations; District-Wide
- Classroom Ceiling Tiles, Flooring & Lighting Replacements; District-Wide
- Bleachers, Press Box, Turf Field & Track, Upgraded/Renovations - FHS
- Casework; Archer, Atkinson, Bayview, Columbus, Giblyn, District-Wide
- Boiler Replacements; Atkinson, Columbus, FHS
- Athletic Field Improvements; Atkinson, FHS, Cleveland Ave, District-Wide
- Locker Rooms; FHS, Cleveland, District-Wide
- PA Systems; Archer, Atkinson, Columbus, District-Wide
- Gym Wall Replacement; New Visions, Dodd, District-Wide
- Nurse’s Suite Renovation, ADA Compliant; Dodd
- Wellness Spaces/Libraries, Cafeterias - Floors, Ceilings, and Lighting
- Columbus Dome Room/Indoor Playground Renovations
- Playground Upgrade/Renovations - Districtwide
- Districtwide Beautification - Outdoor, Courtyard/Greenhouse, Interior Main Entry Areas
- Modular Furniture - Student Seating - Cafeterias, Libraries, Staff Development Areas, Teacher Lounges, School Lobbies, Etc.
- Cafeteria Kitchen Upgrades - Districtwide
- Columbus School Extension - Cafeteria Kitchen & Student Seating, Additional Classrooms
- FHS DLC Improvements - Create Learning Spaces
- Atkinson School Playground Upgrade
- Atkinson Installation of Multi-Purpose Turf Field with Bleachers

Public Comment

If you have questions or feedback regarding the Freeport Public Schools Foundation Aid Plan please contact the district office at (516) 867-5200.