

Freeport Public Schools



2024-2025 Budget Overview

Board of Education Meeting
February 7, 2024



Governor's Executive Budget Proposal 2024-2025

School Aid—Highlights

Budget proposes an \$824 million (2.4%) increase in total School Aid:

- \$507 million (2.1%) increase in Foundation Aid
- \$318 million (3.2%) increase in expense-based and other aids
- Foundation Aid is reduced by \$420 million below what current law formulas would generate (a 3.9% increase)
- Half the state's school districts would experience year-over-year **cuts** in Foundation Aid.
- Other aids are funded in accordance with current law



Foundation Aid

- **Save-Harmless** – for decades, the state has ensured that, whatever formula calculations might produce, districts will not receive a reduction from prior year funding in Foundation Aid—or any of the general-purpose operating aid which preceded it

We speak of districts as being “on the formula” or “on save-harmless.”

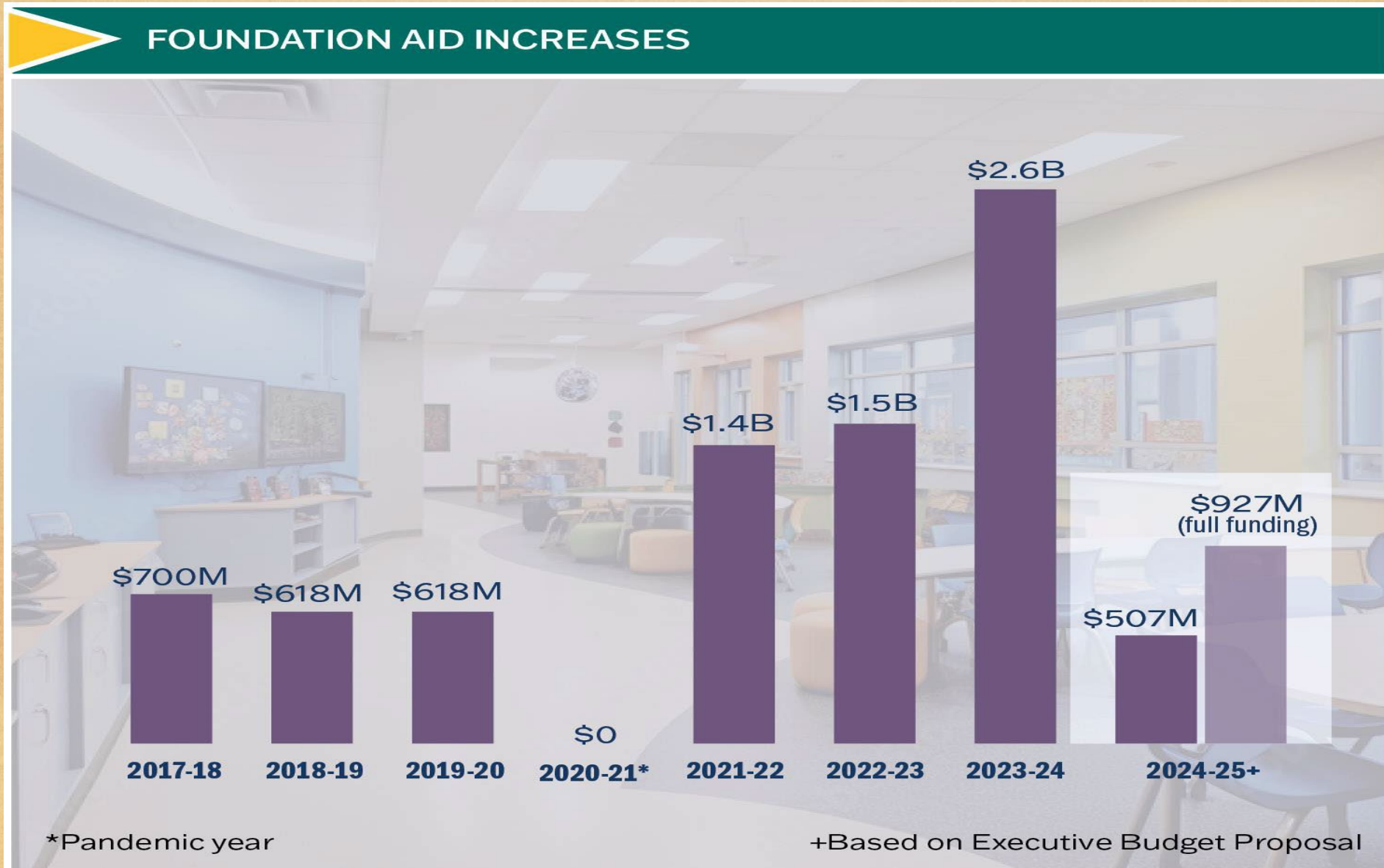


Foundation Aid

- \$507 million overall increase (vs. \$927 million if fully-funded)
- Lower increase achieved in two ways
 - Lower assumed inflationary growth (2.4% vs. 3.8%)
 - Elimination of long-standing practice of save harmless
- 336 districts would see an increase (\$675 million) and 337 districts would see a decrease (\$167 million)



Foundation Aid





Foundation Aid

CHARACTERISTICS OF NYS SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOSING FOUNDATION AID IN EXECUTIVE BUDGET

10.35%

average percentage reduction
in foundation aid

\$777

average amount of cut
per pupil

39%

average percentage of
students receiving free or
reduced-price lunch

0.854

median combined wealth ratio
(CWR)

Note: CWR is a measure of a district's wealth taking into account both the district's real property values and the income of district residents of the district, with 1.0 representing the average district



Rationale for the cuts... and rebuttal

Recent increases were not sustainable

- Increases moderated on their own with full-funding complete and lower inflation (3.9% under current law)
- This was not raised as a concern a year ago when Foundation Aid increased 12.3%

Schools have been benefiting from large increases

- True for many, and we are grateful
- But not all—for 40% of districts, Foundation Aid increases did not keep up with inflation over the last 3 years

Schools have built up reserves

- Policymakers should hope so, with federal COVID-relief aid expiring
- Municipalities have no percentage limit on unrestricted fund balance
- Schools seek to build reserves for the same reason the state does

Districts have lost enrollment causing them to fall on to save-harmless

- This was not raised as an issue the last 2 years—save-harmless was preserved and a 3% minimum increase was provided
- Schools may be serving fewer students, but they are doing more for students and families than ever before
- Cutting aid does nothing to improve opportunities for students in districts with significant enrollment declines



Other Funding Items

- **Health and Mental Health Initiatives:** Budget increases funding for school-based health clinics and for loan repayment for child mental health practitioners. Funding has not been identified for Governor's Pledge to support a school-based mental health clinic for any school desiring one. There are other mental health-related initiatives.
- **Residential Placement Cost Shift:** Budget would continue elimination of state share of room and board costs for residential special education placements; estimated impact of \$28.6 million on districts outside of New York City.
- **Career and Technical Education:** Budget would provide no increase in BOCES or Special Services Aid to support career and technical education.



Executive Budget Policy Proposals

➤ **Science of Reading**

- State Education Department would develop best practices and schools must align curriculum with best practices by 9/1/25
- No specific funding except \$10 million to train 20K teachers using NYSUT teacher centers
- Curriculum mandate

➤ **FAFSA Completion**

- Require all schools to ensure seniors complete FAFSA beginning in the 2024-25 SY
- Students that are 18 or guardians may waive this requirement.
- **35K income waiver for retirees is NOT included**



School District Funding 2024-25

Governor's Executive Budget Proposal

General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) Based on November Database (in millions)

	2023-24	2024-25	Difference	% Difference
Foundation Aid	\$23,998.88	\$24,505.96	\$507.08	2.11%
Transportation Aid	\$2,395.01	\$2,543.46	\$148.45	6.20%
BOCES Aid	\$1,257.34	\$1,275.26	\$17.92	1.43%
Special Services Aid	\$221.76	\$223.99	\$2.23	1.01%
Building Aid	\$3,397.02	\$3,349.01	-\$48.01	-1.41%
Excess Cost Aids	\$1,017.17	\$1,109.67	\$92.50	9.09%
Instructional Materials Aids	\$254.26	\$255.10	\$0.84	0.33%
UPK	\$1,077.59	\$1,176.94	\$99.35	9.22%
Other Aids	\$307.71	\$312.06	\$4.35	1.41%
Total	\$33,926.74	\$34,751.45	\$824.71	2.43%



School District Funding

2024-25 Governor's Executive Budget Proposal

Freeport School District – Proposed School Aid

	2023-2024	2024-2025		
AID CATEGORY	School Aid	School Aid	Change \$	Change %
Foundation Aid	\$114,671,407	\$116,794,723	\$2,123,316	1.85
High Tax Aid	3,657,932	3,657,932	\$0	0.00
Transportation Aid (Reg. & Summer)	8,677,474	8,644,412	(\$33,062)	-0.38
Building Aid (Reg. & Reorg.)*	4,410,241	3,337,128	(\$1,073,113)	(24.33)
BOCES Aid	5,885,437	5,087,249	(\$798,188)	-13.56
Public EC High Cost Aid	3,603,048	4,608,002	\$1,004,954	27.89
Private Excess Cost Aid	1,399,442	1,412,453	\$13,011	0.93
Hardware & Technology Aid	124,431	119,679	(\$4,752)	(3.82)
Software, Library Materials & Textbook Aid	556,759	555,848	(\$911)	(0.16)
Univ Prekindergarten Aid	2,900,667	3,057,957	\$157,290	5.42
Total Aid	\$145,886,838	\$147,275,383	\$1,388,545	1%



Freeport Public Schools

2024-2025 Proposed Budget

- Overview; Factors Impacting the Budget
- Staffing, Programs & Services – Enhancements
- Capital Projects
- Budget Components

Detailed Presentations in March/April Meetings



Proposed Tax Levy for 2024-2025

NO TAX LEVY INCREASE

Proposed Decrease of (1.9%)

***The Tax Levy has been decreased Nine of the
last Ten years.***



Proposition to Authorize to Expend From Capital Reserve Fund 2017

- Proposition for District-Wide Capital Projects from the Capital Reserve: \$2.5 Million

No additional cost to the taxpayers



Freeport Public Schools

Additional Proposition for Consideration 2024-2025 Budget



Transportation Proposition –1.5 Mile Limit-Current Areas Eligible





Transportation Proposition – 1 Mile vs 1.5 Mile



PROPOSED CHANGE EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY AREAS NOW TO BLUE (CURRENT) AND ADDITIONALLY AREAS MARKED RED, BOTH BLUE & RED AREAS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION



Proposition to Authorize Bus Transportation Mileage Limit Change

- Propose: Bus Transportation Eligibility Limit Change for Dodd Middle School from 1.5 miles to 1.0 mile.
- Proposed change provides more students eligible to receive school transportation.
- Additional approximately 8 buses or \$800,000; offset by transportation aid of approximately \$600,000 in the following year.
- First Year Expense Approximately \$800K; Offset by Revenues.
NO TAX LEVY INCREASE



Freeport's Legislative Priorities for 2024

Foundation Aid – Change/Update the Current formula	Increase allowable Fund Balance Reserve for School Districts
Restore “Save Harmless” Provision in the Foundation Aid Formula	Charter School Reform
Pre-K Funding formula update/Flexibility	Tax Levy Cap Reform
Increase state’s share of funding for student and staff mental health needs and services	<u>Others:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fix APPR• Fix Civil Service• Extend Suspension of Retiree Earnings Limitations
Provide relief for unfunded or underfunded mandates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unaccompanied Minors• English Language Learners• Special Education	



2024-2025 Proposed Budget Presentations Meeting Dates

- ✓February 7, 2024: BOE Action/Budget Workshop Meeting – Caroline G. Atkinson School
- March 6, 2024: BOE Budget Workshop/Planning/Action Meeting - Caroline G. Atkinson School
Review of Program & Capital Components of the Proposed Budget)
- March 20, 2024: BOE Budget Workshop Meeting – Dodd Middle School
Review of All Components of the Proposed Budget
- April 3, 2024: BOE Action/Budget Workshop - Caroline G. Atkinson School
Review of All Components of the Proposed Budget
- April 16, 2024: BOE Action Meeting/Adoption of School Budget and BOCES Admin Operations Budget
vote and BOCES Trustee Election at Caroline G. Atkinson School
- May 8, 2024: Annual Budget-Public Hearing/Planning Meeting - Caroline G. Atkinson School
- May 21, 2024: a) Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election 6am-9pm (Annual Meeting)
b) Certification and Acceptance of the Vote results - 9:30 pm at Caroline G. Atkinson School

Freeport Public Schools



Q & A
Thank You!