

School Tour Questionnaire

New York State owes New York public schools \$3.8 billion in unpaid Foundation Aid. The state's Foundation Aid formula was the result of legislative action taken after the Campaign for Fiscal Equity ruling, which affirmed that New York State was violating the New York State constitutional right of all students to a quality education. The goal of collecting this information is to highlight the gaps in resources resulting from the chronic underfunding by the state.

Please complete this questionnaire by _____ and email to _____. **Please be as descriptive as possible in answering the questions in order to illustrate the needs in your district. We will need to follow up with you to ensure that we have all the information necessary to show the public how the state is not providing adequate funding for districts to meet ALL their students' needs. Please indicate the date and time that you or a person designated will be available for a follow up conversation.**

When completing this questionnaire, please keep in mind that in order to have an accurate reflection of the state of the school, **we need as much detail as possible.** Please assume that you are the keeper of the knowledge and the people reading the questionnaire need to understand that knowledge based on your description.

Overall, what programs/resources has your school been able to provide as a result of recent funding and/or increases in funding? Please provide the name of the program, number of students served and the number that is not served. If you have added personnel, please indicate the area of specialization, the number of personnel added, the number of additional students that can be served or the decrease in class size. Feel free to expand to the back of the paper or attached a different sheet.

What is the greatest challenge facing this school/community? Please provide as descriptive as possible. Think of this question as a narrative to paint an accurate picture of the school and the community it is in.

What would be your first priority if your school received more funding? Why? Please include numbers and specific goals. Please be descriptive.

What difficult decisions has the school had to make due to funding constraints? For instance, do you have music and art on rotation? Do you offer physical education? How often? What is left out or behind with these decisions?

What are the technological needs in your school? How old is technology? Do all students have access to it?

Do you have support staff that share their time with multiple schools within the district? Do you have a dedicated social worker, school psychologist, etc.? Do you have parent volunteers that fill these roles? How often do students who need extra support are able to see the staff?

Are there any instructional or enrichment programs that you would like to be added or expanded? Are there any other programs or services that support students and their families that you would like to add (services such as laundromats or health clinics)? Why?

The questions below ask about specific topics that have come up during our tour of different schools. Please consider them and (where relevant) answer them in order to assess the need in your school:

- Is the class size/ teach staffing (bilingual teachers) appropriate, adequate in numbers?
- Is there adequate number of support staff (guidance counselors, social workers, paraprofessionals)? What specifically do you need to meet your students' needs? Do you have multilingual support staff? Do you need it?
 - Are the materials including textbooks and technology up to date and culturally relevant? Do students have to share?
- What kind of access to do students have to arts/ music/PE? Is there dedicated space?
- What kind of access do students have to gym and sports? Do parents have to volunteer to coach teams or is there dedicated staff?
- Is there after school programming? For how many students? Is it free?
- Do you have early childhood education (Pre-K, 3K)? Is there need for it in your community? How many children have access to it (If you have it?)
- Do you have an overcrowding or lack of adequate and appropriate school space? Please consider
 - Playgrounds and outdoor activity space
 - Designated gym/ auditorium
 - Designated cafeteria
 - Designated library
- Do you have a librarian? Do the librarian offer programming?
- Do you have specialized programing (AP, Computer Science, Gifted and Talented, Dual and Foreign Language, etc.)? Who has access to it?
 - Do you have any extracurricular activities available to the students? Does everyone have access?
- Do you have wraparound services (after school, tutoring, summer school, health centers, mental health services, etc.)? Who has access to those services?
 - Do you have transportation for your younger students? (think about pre-K). If not, is that an obstacle to access to the school?
- Do you have parent volunteers? Why? What programming do they assist with?