



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Office of Educational Management Services
Room 1075 Education Building Annex
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Albany, NY 12234
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April 30, 2024

Dear Superintendent,

The Enacted State Budget for 2024-25 requires that your district complete a Contract for Excellence (C4E) for the coming school year. The Contract for Excellence program intends to ensure that additional financial resources target programs that direct funds toward the goal of raising student achievement and benefits the neediest pupils in the school district.

Districts saw a significant increase in Foundation Aid between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years due to Foundation Aid being fully funded causing outsized increases to districts' contract amounts. Recognizing the challenges districts faced in planning and programming the full set-aside amount in a single year, the Commissioner of Education authorized a gradual increase to districts' contract amounts.. This increase was spread over three years, with 20% of the increase included in 2022-23 and 40% of the increase included in each of the following two years (2023-24 and 2024-25) to allow districts more time to plan for the increases. A document explaining the three-year phase-in chart can be found online at the following link: [CLICK HERE](#). Please note that, per statute, a district's Contract for Excellence set-aside shall not be less in any year than the year prior. As such, contract amounts for 2024-25 may be higher than published estimates based on the calculated foundation aid in the respective years.

Attached is an updated 2024-25 Contract for Excellence schedule with deadlines. Please note the due dates for the drafts and final plans requiring submission to the State Education Department. The schedule, required templates, and Needs/Weights can also be found on our website.

We encourage you to continue the planning process so that the Commissioner may approve your plan in a timely fashion. If you have any questions, please contact Mavis Kirk in the Office of Education Management Services at (518)474-6541 or mavis.kirk@nysed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Elliott".

David Elliott
Coordinator, Educational Aid Services

c: Mavis Kirk