



State of Education Funding Ratings Rubric

MEETS CRITERIA

PARTIALLY MEETS CRITERIA

DOESN'T MEET CRITERIA

CRITERIA			
FUND STUDENTS ADEQUATELY			
The funding formula is student-based, or weighted	Formula is resource- or program-based and allocates resources such as staff, services, or programs based in the form of "units" or ratios of students-to-staff position, or categorical grants that are not tied to actual student needs.	Formula is a hybrid model, combining aspects of a student-based model, resource-based model, and various cost factors.	Formula allocates a base, or defined amount of funding, on a per-student basis and allocates additional money or weights to provide additional money per student with specific needs, such as English learners
Per-pupil funding is adequate enough for all students to achieve average, national test scores	There is high percentage (40-100%) of students attending schools in inadequately funded districts	There is moderate percentage (40-10%) of students attending schools in inadequately funded districts	There is a low percentage (0-10%) of students attending schools in inadequately funded districts
FUND STUDENT NEEDS APPROPRIATELY			
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for students living in poverty	Formula does not include weights or additional funding, includes very low funding (e.g. less than 10% of base amount), or includes flat funding	Formula includes insufficient weights or additional funding (e.g. 10-99% of base amount)	Formula provides generous weights or additional funding (e.g. 100% or more of the base amount) for students living in poverty
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for English learners	Formula does not include weights or additional funding, or includes very low funding (e.g. less than 10% of base amount), or includes flat funding	Formula includes insufficient weights or additional funding (e.g. 10-99% of base amount)	Formula provides generous weights or additional funding (e.g. 100% or more of the base amount) for English learners

Formula includes a weight or additional funding for students with disabilities	Formula does not include weights or additional funding, or bases funding not on student-based factors (e.g. staff positions)	Formula includes weights or additional funding that is flat or does not differentiate between the types of disabilities students have	Formula includes a system of at least three to five funding tiers in which students are funded based on their diagnoses
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for sparse and/or isolated districts	Formula does not include weights or additional funding	Formula includes insufficient weights or additional funding (e.g. 10-99% of base amount) or funding is not differentiated based on sparsity or isolation	Formula includes a generous sliding scale weight for sparsity on a per-student basis and includes a flat weight for districts that are isolated
Formula includes weights or additional funding for districts with high levels of concentrated poverty	Formula does not include a weight or additional funding	Formula includes a concentrated poverty weight that is insufficient or is static and not reflective of the needs of districts with higher levels of poverty	Formula includes a generous, sliding scale weight that provides more funding to districts with higher percentages of student poverty
			
FUND SCHOOL DISTRICTS EQUITABLY			
State caps how much local revenue districts can raise to limit between-district disparities in local revenue	The state does not impose a cap on how much local revenue districts can raise	The state imposes a cap but voters can override it	The state imposes a cap on how much local revenue districts can raise, and voters cannot override it
			
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY			
State annually publishes information about how the funding system is designed to work in clear, plain language	System is not summarized (i.e., it's only described through legislation language etc.)	System is summarized, but the language used is full of jargon and is not understandable by a lay audience; the information is not easily found on the state department of education website	System is summarized in clear, accessible language and can be easily found on the state department of education website
State reports school spending data in alignment with equity-oriented principles	State reporting is not aligned with equity-oriented reporting principles	State reporting is partially aligned with equity-oriented reporting principles	State reporting is aligned with equity-oriented reporting principles

PUBLIC FUNDS FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Taxpayer funds are used to maintain and support public schools exclusively

State allows public funds to fund private schooling, such as vouchers and education savings accounts (ESA), with no income eligibility requirements, accountability, or transparency

State limits vouchers or ESAs to families with low-income or students with disabilities with specific service needs that a public school cannot meet, and requires some accountability and reporting

State does not have a publicly-funded private school voucher program or education savings accounts, keeping public education dollars in public school systems