












State of Education Funding: Arkansas

MEETS CRITERIA

PARTIALLY MEETS CRITERIA

DOESN'T MEET CRITERIA

RATING		REASON FOR RATING
FUND STUDENTS ADEQUATELY		
The funding formula is student-based, or weighted		The formula is student-based
Per-pupil funding is adequate enough for all students to achieve average, national test scores		There is high percentage of students attending schools in inadequately funded districts
FUND STUDENT NEEDS APPROPRIATELY		
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for students living in poverty		The formula provides additional dollars to district based on district poverty levels, rather than funding based on individual students living in poverty
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for English learners		The formula includes a flat amount per English learner, which amounts to 5% of the per-student base
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for students with disabilities		The formula does not fund special education through separate weights, but instead assumes certain personnel needs and factors those needs into the per-student base. In addition, districts can seek reimbursements for services for students with extremely high-cost needs, but money for reimbursements is limited and subject to the policymakers providing such funding in the state budget.
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for sparse and/or isolated districts		The formula allocates additional funding for sparsity or isolation in three different ways, with more additional dollars going the districts that are the most isolated

<p>Formula includes weights or additional funding for districts with high levels of concentrated poverty</p>		<p>The formula does not include a weight for concentrated poverty</p>
<p>FUND SCHOOL DISTRICTS EQUITABLY</p>		
<p>State caps how much local revenue districts can raise to limit between-district disparities in local revenue</p>		<p>The formula sets a cap on local property tax rates and sets a level at which voters can vote to increase property taxes</p>
<p>FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY</p>		
<p>State annually publishes information about how the funding system is designed to work in clear, plain language</p>		<p>The state education department publishes a school funding guide, but it is not user friendly</p>
<p>State reports school spending data in alignment with equity-oriented principles</p>		<p>The state reports are aligned with equity-oriented school spending reporting principles</p>
<p>PUBLIC FUNDS FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p>		
<p>Taxpayer funds are used to maintain and support public schools exclusively</p>		<p>The state has an ESA program that will become available to all K-12 students by 2025 after 2 years of targeted phasing in; the state also has tax-credits for scholarships</p>