State of Education Funding: Tennessee



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 includes a 25% weight for students living in poverty	
Formula includes a weight or additional funding for English learners		The formula funds English learners at 3 different levels: 20%, 50%, and 70% of the per-student base	
Formula includes a weight or ad- ditional funding for students with disabilities		The formula funds students across ten different categories of disability or student need	
Formula includes a weight or ad- ditional funding for sparse and/or isolated districts		The formula does not provide generous weights for small and sparse districts (5%)	

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Formula includes weights or additional funding for districts with high levels of concentrat- ed poverty		The formula has a 5% concentrated poverty weight, failing to differentiate between different levels of district poverty	
FUND SCHOOL DISTRICTS EQUITABLY			
State caps how much local rev- enue districts can raise to limit between-district disparities in local revenue		The formula does not set a limit for how much local revenue districts can raise	
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY			
State annually publishes infor- mation about how the funding system is designed to work in clear, plain language		The state education department maintains a webpage that explains the funding formula in clear language and has an accompanying guide that is in plain language and easy to find	
State reports school spending data in alignment with <u>equity-oriented principles</u>		The state reports are partially aligned with equity-oriented school spending reporting principles	
PUBLIC FUNDS FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
Taxpayer funds are used to main- tain and support public schools exclusively		The state has a pilot ESA program available to low- and middle-income families in specific regions of the state	

The Education Trust—Tennessee