

State Ratings Rubric: Mississippi

MEETS CRITERIA

PARTIALLY MEETS CRITERIA

DOESN'T MEET CRITERIA



Rating went up since last year



Some improvements since last year



Rating did not change



Rating went down since last year



Some decline since last year

Last updated: August 2025

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	RATING	EXPLANATION
FUND STUDENTS ADEQUATELY			
Funding Adequacy	Per-student funding is at or above the national average (\$16,645).		Per student funding was \$4,393 less than the national average in the 2021-22 school year.
Yearly Increases	Base funding for all students increases every year to account for inflation.		The per-student base amount increased by 2.2% for the 2025-26 school year, from \$6,695 to \$6,843.
Progressive Tax Policies	The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools.		Legislation passed in 2025 to ultimately eliminate the state's individual income tax.
FUND STUDENT NEEDS EQUITABLY			
Student-Based Formula	The funding formula is primarily student-based.		Primarily student-based formula.
Students from Low-Income Backgrounds	The state provides additional funds for students from low-income backgrounds.		30% weight.
English Learners	The state provides additional funds for English Learners.		15% weight.
Students with Disabilities	The state provides additional funds for students with disabilities, based on their needs.		Three different weights based on the type of disability, ranging from 60% to 130%.

FUND DISTRICTS APPROPRIATELY			
Cost Sharing	The state requires local governments to share the cost based on their ability to pay.		Local governments must share the cost, but high-wealth areas are not required to contribute more than 27%.
Local Revenue Cap	The state limits wealthy districts from contributing excessively more than other districts.		The state sets a cap that voters can override.
Rural Districts	Small districts and districts with few students per square mile (“sparse districts”) receive additional funds.		Additional funding for sparse districts for transportation, ranging from 1% to 8% per student.
Concentrated Poverty	Districts with high concentrations of poverty receive additional funds .		10% weight.
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY & EFFECTIVELY			
Formula Transparency	The funding formula is easy to understand and clearly explained.		The formula is easy to understand and clearly explained.
Funding Data	The state shares detailed, timely, and user-friendly public data on districts’ funding.		Data only shows total funding for each district.
District Spending Plans	The state requires districts to share public reports about how they invest funds to meet students’ needs.		No requirement.
Formula Review	The state requires a clear, stakeholder-led process to evaluate the formula and recommend improvements.		The formula must be recalculated every four years, but does not require stakeholder engagement.
FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXCLUSIVELY			
Vouchers	The state does not divert public funds to private schools through voucher programs, education savings accounts, or scholarship tax credits.		Three different programs provide vouchers or education savings accounts to students with disabilities.

Sources: Education Law Center, EdFund, EdBuild, Bellwether, Education Commission of the States, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Mississippi Department of Education