

State Ratings Rubric: Virginia

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 \$1,794 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 2.1% for the 2025-26 school year, from \$8,340 to \$8,524.
Progressive Tax Policies	The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools.		No major reforms to property, income, or sales tax in 2025.
FUND STUDENT NEEDS EQUITABLY			
Student-Based Formula	The funding formula is primarily student-based.		Hybrid formula.
Students from Low-Income Backgrounds	The state provides additional funds for students from low-income backgrounds.		No additional funding for individual students from low-income backgrounds. (see Concentrated Poverty)
English Learners	The state provides additional funds for English Learners.		Some additional funding is provided based on standard teacher-student ratios of 1:50.
Students with Disabilities	The state provides additional funds for students with disabilities, based on their needs.		Additional funding is provided based on estimated staffing costs, regardless of the types of disabilities students have.

FUND DISTRICTS APPROPRIATELY			
Cost Sharing	The state requires local governments to share the cost based on their ability to pay.		Local governments contribute 45% on average, based on their revenue from property, sales, and other taxes.
Local Revenue Cap	The state limits wealthy districts from contributing excessively more than other districts.		The state does not set a cap.
Rural Districts	Small districts and districts with few students per square mile ("sparse districts") receive additional funds.		No additional funding.
Concentrated Poverty	Districts with high concentrations of poverty receive additional funds .		Additional funding based on the district poverty level, up to 37% more per student.
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY & EFFECTIVELY			
Formula Transparency	The funding formula is easy to understand and clearly explained.		The formula is complicated and not clearly explained.
Funding Data	The state shares detailed, timely, and user-friendly public data on districts' funding.		Data is not shared on Virginia's Department of Education website.
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.		A state board committee reviews the formula every two years and invites stakeholders to submit public comments.
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.		The Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit Program provides vouchers with some income restrictions.

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