

State Ratings Rubric: Kentucky



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: May 2026

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	RATING	EXPLANATION
FUND STUDENTS ADEQUATELY			
Funding Adequacy	Per-student funding is at or above the national average (\$17,853 for the 2022-23 school year).		Per-student funding was \$795 less than the national average in the 2022-23 school year.
Yearly Increases	Base funding for all students increases every year to account for inflation.		The per-student base amount increased by 0.9% for the 2026-27 school year, from \$4,586 to \$4,626.
Progressive Tax Policies	The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools.		Implemented 2025 legislation to reduce income taxes from 4% to 3.5%.
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.		15% weight.
English Learners	The state provides additional funds for English Learners.		9.6% 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 24% to 235%.

FUND DISTRICTS APPROPRIATELY			
Cost Sharing	The state requires local governments to share the cost based on their ability to pay.		When local governments contribute more than the required amount, the state provides a greater share to districts with less property wealth.
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.
Concentrated Poverty	Districts with high concentrations of poverty receive additional funds .		No additional funding.
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY & EFFECTIVELY			
Formula Transparency	The funding formula is easy to understand and clearly explained.		The formula is easy to understand, and the state education department’s executive summary clearly explains it.
Funding Data	The state shares detailed, timely, and user-friendly public data on districts’ funding.		Data is detailed and timely, but not accessible.
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.		No required review process.
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 state constitution prohibits voucher programs.
Sources: Education Law Center, EdFund, EdBuild, Bellwether, Education Commission of the States, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Kentucky Department of Education			