

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: 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 \$4,294 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 5.4% for the 2026-27 school year, from \$6,695 to \$7,201. |
| Progressive Tax Policies | The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools. | | No major reforms to property, income, or sales tax in 2026. |
| 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. |  | The state has different programs providing 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 | | | |