

# State Ratings Rubric: South Carolina



**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
<b>FUND STUDENTS ADEQUATELY</b>			
<b>Funding Adequacy</b>	Per-student funding is at or above the national average (\$17,853 for the 2022-23 school year).		Per-student funding was \$155 less than the national average in the 2022-23 school year.
<b>Yearly Increases</b>	Base funding for all students increases every year to account for inflation.		The per-student base amount increased by 2.4% for the 2026-27 school year, from \$5,884 to \$6,023.
<b>Progressive Tax Policies</b>	The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools.		Legislation passed in 2026 to reduce income taxes for the highest earners.
<b>FUND STUDENT NEEDS EQUITABLY</b>			
<b>Student-Based Formula</b>	The funding formula is primarily student-based.		Hybrid formula.
<b>Students from Low-Income Backgrounds</b>	The state provides additional funds for students from low-income backgrounds.		50% weight.
<b>English Learners</b>	The state provides additional funds for English Learners.		20% weight.
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	The state provides additional funds for students with disabilities, based on their needs.		160% weight, regardless of the types of disabilities students have.

FUND DISTRICTS APPROPRIATELY			
<b>Cost Sharing</b>	The state requires local governments to share the cost based on their ability to pay.		Local governments contribute 25% on average, based on certain types of property revenue.
<b>Local Revenue Cap</b>	The state limits wealthy districts from contributing excessively more than other districts.		The state does not set a cap.
<b>Rural Districts</b>	Small districts and districts with few students per square mile (“sparse districts”) receive additional funds.		No additional funding.
<b>Concentrated Poverty</b>	Districts with high concentrations of poverty receive <a href="#">additional funds</a> .		No additional funding.
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY & EFFECTIVELY			
<b>Formula Transparency</b>	The funding formula is easy to understand and clearly explained.		The formula is complicated, and the state education department’s manual is not user-friendly.
<b>Funding Data</b>	The state shares detailed, timely, and user-friendly public data on districts’ funding.		Data is timely and user-friendly but is only somewhat detailed.
<b>District Spending Plans</b>	The state requires districts to share public reports about how they invest funds to meet students’ needs.		The Education Funding Dashboard shows district spending, but not how specific investments related to students with greater needs.
<b>Formula Review</b>	The state requires a clear, stakeholder-led process to evaluate the formula and recommend improvements.		A legislator-led review committee is required to meet, but has not published public recommendations since 2019.
FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXCLUSIVELY			
<b>Vouchers</b>	The state does not divert public funds to private schools through voucher programs, education savings accounts, or scholarship tax credits.		The South Carolina Education Scholarship Trust Fund program provides vouchers with near-universal eligibility and no accountability requirements.
Sources: Education Law Center, EdFund, EdBuild, Bellwether, Education Commission of the States, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, South Carolina Department of Education			