

# 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: 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 \$2,038 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.	TBD	Virginia has not yet set a budget for the 2026-27 school year.
<b>Progressive Tax Policies</b>	The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools.	TBD	Virginia is still debating a potential reform to the data center sales tax exemption.
<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.		11% weight.
<b>English Learners</b>	The state provides additional funds for English Learners.		Additional funding is provided based on student proficiency, using teacher-student ratios ranging from 1:20 to 1:100.
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	The state provides additional funds for students with disabilities, based on their needs.		Additional funding is provided based on staffing formulas for different levels of student need and instructional settings. The legislature created two-tier add-on funding in 2026.

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 45% on average, based on property values, resident income, sales tax capacity, and population.
<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> .		Additional funding based on the district poverty level, up to 37% more per student. In 2026 the legislature passed a one-time fund of \$99M to support concentrated poverty.
FUND STUDENTS TRANSPARENTLY & EFFECTIVELY			
<b>Formula Transparency</b>	The funding formula is easy to understand and clearly explained.		The formula is complicated and not clearly explained.
<b>Funding Data</b>	The state shares detailed, timely, and user-friendly public data on districts’ funding.		Data is not shared on Virginia’s Department of Education website.
<b>District Spending Plans</b>	The state requires districts to share public reports about how they invest funds to meet students’ needs.		No requirement.
<b>Formula Review</b>	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 comment.
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 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