

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 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 \$2,038 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 amount increased by 12.6% for the 2026-27 school year, from \$8,524 to \$9,595.
Progressive Tax Policies	The state maintains healthy revenue sources for schools.		The state created a temporary new tax on electricity used by data centers.
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.		11% weight.
English Learners	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.
Students with Disabilities	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			
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 property values, resident income, sales tax capacity, and population.
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. In 2026 the legislature passed a one-time fund of \$99M to support concentrated poverty.
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 comment.
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