

Gifted

Some states provide increased funding for students identified as gifted. This report indicates which states consider gifted students when allocating state education funding, and if applicable, how they do so.

Alabama

Alabama provides increased funding for gifted and talented students through two program-based allocations: one automatic allocation and one competitive grant.

The state budget sets aside money to support gifted and talented students throughout the state. In FY2021, the state appropriated $3.85 million for this purpose: $3 million of the appropriation was provided in amounts proportional to each district's average enrollment and its count of identified gifted students. The remaining $825,000 was allocated for competitive one-year grants for public schools to develop or continue gifted and talented programs.

Alaska

Alaska provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.2 to the total enrollment count to generate additional funding for students with special needs, including gifted and talented students.

Alaska applies a multiplier of 1.2 to each district's student count to provide funding for students with special needs, including gifted and talented students. To receive this funding, districts must file plans with the Alaska Department of Education indicating the special-needs services they will provide. The multiplier is applied to a student count that has already been adjusted for local cost factors (see "Sparsity and/or Small Size" for more information).

Other student categories intended to be served with this supplemental funding include English-language learners, students with disabilities, and students enrolled in career and technical education programs.

Arizona	Arizona provides increased funding to schools for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.007 times the base amount for each student identified as gifted and talented. Arizona also provides a flat per-student allocation for a set proportion of students assumed to be gifted and talented, and through a grant program. Arizona assumes that gifted students make up 4% of the overall population in schools. To provide for gifted and talented education, the state gives a flat per-student allocation of $75.00 for that proportion of students. In districts where this calculation would produce less than $2,000 in supplemental funding, the state adjusts the allocation to provide $2,000. In FY2020, the adjusted per-student allocation was $19.38 per assumed gifted student. Districts that receive per-student allocations for gifted students can apply for additional funding to supplement their efforts to offer gifted education programs. In FY2020, Arizona appropriated $1,000,000 for this purpose.
Arkansas	Arkansas provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in the form of a grant. The state budget sets aside money to support gifted and talented students. In FY2021, the state appropriated $1.49 million for this purpose. The state uses this money to provide grants to school districts with outstanding gifted and talented programs. Some of the money is also used to fund a summer program for gifted and talented youth.
California	California does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Colorado	Colorado provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through a limited-use grant. Districts in Colorado receive funding for gifted and talented students under the Exceptional Children's Educational Act. These funds may be used to pay for staff, activities, materials, and equipment associated with the education of gifted and talented students. In FY2021, Colorado provided $12.8 million for these purposes.
Connecticut	Connecticut does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Delaware	Delaware does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students. However, the state provides funding, called academic excellence units, to every district in proportion to its enrollment size that is intended to support certain educational services. The list of suggested and permissible uses for this funding includes programs for gifted and talented students.
District of Columbia	The District of Columbia does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.

Florida	Florida provides increased funding for gifted and talented students in grades K-8. It does so in the form of a noncompetitive grant. These funds are included in the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Guaranteed Allocation, which is a block grant provided to districts as part of their special education funding (see "Special Education" for details about this allocation). This grant is intended not only to support services for certain students with disabilities but also to provide services for gifted and talented students in grades K-8. In FY2021, Florida provided about $1.09 billion in ESE allocations. Florida also provides increased funding for students in grades 9-12 who enroll in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education programs. Students who successfully pass the subject exams generate additional funding. Increased funding is also provided for students who earn an IB diploma.
Georgia	Georgia provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.6790 to the base per-pupil amount for these students. Students enrolled in a program implementing an approved gifted and talented model are eligible for this funding. The state considers gifted students to be a distinct category of students with special needs and distributes the money as part of its special education funding system.
Hawaii	Hawaii provides increased funding to schools for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.265 to the base per-pupil amount for a set proportion of students assumed to be gifted and talented. Hawaii assumes that gifted students make up 3% of the overall population in schools. Hawaii applies this multiplier to the base amount for that proportion of students in order to provide for gifted and talented education. This assumption may be revised by the state's Committee on Weights. The multiplier has been expressed this way for consistency with other states. The funding is actually provided in an amount equal to 0.265 times the per-pupil base amount, distributed in addition to the student's own base amount funding. The multiplier used is fixed at regular intervals by the state's Committee on Weights.
Idaho	Idaho did not provide specific funding for gifted and talented students in FY2021. However, in some budget years, the state appropriates funding to support professional training and screening for gifted and talented students and instructors.

Illinois	Illinois provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by adding a flat allocation for each student in a district. For FY2022, the state increased each district's formula calculation by $90 per student to support gifted and talented education. This money is calculated in accordance with the total enrollment of a district rather than a specific count of gifted and talented students. Because the state plans to move toward full formula funding over the span of a number of years, annual increases in funding are distributed to districts with the greatest need for state assistance. To determine need, districts are assigned to a percentile ranking comparing their ratio of resources to education costs against those of all other districts. Districts are then sorted into tiers according to the degree to which their local resources can be expected to cover their local education costs, and a greater percentage of available state aid is distributed to districts with less ability to fund their own education costs.
Indiana	Indiana provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in the form of a competitive grant. School districts may apply for grants to support High Ability Education. In FY2021, the total amount appropriated for this purpose was $12.9 million.
Iowa	Iowa provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by designating a portion of the per-pupil base amount for gifted education programs. The state provides a flat amount ($67 in FY2022) for each student in the district. This amount is intended to provide for 75% of the costs associated with gifted and talented education; districts are required to provide the remaining 25% ($22.33 in FY2022). This funding is increased annually by the same percentage as the per-pupil base amount, of which it is a part. Funding for gifted education programs does not increase the districts' total state education aid.
Kansas	Kansas provides increased funding for gifted and talented students as part of special education funding. Kansas includes gifted and talented students in its definition of "exceptional children," which also includes students with disabilities. Services for gifted students are funded in largely the same manner as those for students with disabilities—through partial reimbursements for teacher costs (see "Special Education" for a description of these reimbursements).
Kentucky	Kentucky provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in an amount proportional to each district's total enrollment. The total amount appropriated for this purpose in FY2021 was $6.2 million.

Louisiana	Louisiana provides increased funding for gifted and talented students by applying a multiplier of 1.6 to the base per-pupil amount for these students. Gifted students in Louisiana are defined as those with evidence of high performance in academic and intellectual aptitude. They are evaluated for math, reading, and intellectual abilities in general, and their scores are compared with the state average, and interviews with parents and educators.
Maine	Maine provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in the form of a noncompetitive grant. To determine the amount of money to be appropriated for this purpose, the state uses either the most recent audited report of financial data for approved actual expenses or the approved budget, whichever is less, and then applies a multiplier for inflation.
Maryland	Maryland does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Massachusetts	Massachusetts does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Michigan	Michigan does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Minnesota	Minnesota provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through a flat allocation based on the size of a district's enrollment. The state provides districts with $13 per student to support gifted and talented education. This money is allocated in accordance with the adjusted enrollment of the district, which is computed through the application of multipliers to the student count to adjust for the numbers of students in half-day kindergarten and grades 7-12 (see "Grade Level" for a description of this adjustment). This funding may be spent only on the identification of gifted and talented students, education programs for such students, and professional development for teachers of such students.
Mississippi	Mississippi provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in a resource-based fashion, by allocating funding in an amount equal to each district's anticipated costs for salaries for teachers in gifted programs. Annually, the state's Office of Advanced Learning and Gifted Programs provides an estimate of the teacher units needed for each district's gifted education programs to the Office of School Financial Services, which calculates the average salary drawn by gifted education teachers in each district based on personnel reports from the prior year and then multiplies these numbers to produce the total amount of funding provided to the district for gifted education. This funding is allocated with no use restrictions.

Missouri	Missouri does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students. However, if a district experiences a decrease in enrollment in its gifted program of 20% or more from the previous school year, the district's current-year state aid payment will be reduced by $680 for every student no longer enrolled in the gifted program.
Montana	Montana provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in the form of a matching grant. Districts must apply for this grant funding and match state funds with local funds. For FY2022, the state legislature appropriated $350,000 for this purpose.
Nebraska	Nebraska provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through a grant distributed outside the state's main education funding formula. Each school district receives a base grant amount equal to one-tenth of 1% of the total state appropriation for gifted programs. The remainder of the grant amount is based on the district's total number of students identified as gifted, up to 10%of fall membership from the previous year. Districts must match the amount provided by the state. In FY2022, the state set aside a total of $2.3 million to fund programs for these students.
Nevada	Nevada provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.12 to the base per-pupil amount for these students in FY2022 and FY2023. Gifted students are those whose outstanding academic skills or aptitudes are such that the student cannot progress effectively in a regular school program. Any student eligible for increased funding in multiple categories (English-language learner, student poverty, special education, gifted) may receive only the increased funding for the category with the highest multiplier for which the student is eligible.
New Hampshire	New Hampshire does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
New Jersey	New Jersey does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students. However, the state considers the costs of gifted education in setting its base amount and expects that districts will be able to use a portion of the base funding to serve gifted and talented students.

New Mexico	New Mexico provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying multipliers to the base per-pupil amount for gifted students; these multipliers vary depending on the degree of modification to the general education program the student requires. These funds are distributed as a part of districts' special education funding. As for students with disabilities, each gifted student receives an individualized education program specifying the services required to serve him or her effectively. Depending on the level of services required, the state applies a multiplier to the base per-pupil amount that may range from 1.7 to 3.0 (see "Special Education" for a description of this allocation).
New York	New York does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
North Carolina	North Carolina provides increased funding to schools for gifted and talented students. It does so through a flat per-student allocation that is provided for a set proportion of students assumed to be gifted and talented. North Carolina assumes that gifted students make up 4% of the overall population in schools. To fund gifted and talented education, the state provides a flat per-student allocation, which equaled $1,364.78 in FY2021, for that proportion of students.
North Dakota	North Dakota provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by reimbursing eligible districts and special education units for the cost of their gifted and talented programs. To receive reimbursement, a district must submit an application that describes its program and provides assurances that it has credentialed staff for gifted and talented programs. State aid for this purpose totals approximately $400,000 for each FY2022 and FY2023.
Ohio	Ohio provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through the resource-based component of its formula by specifying student-to-staff ratios for gifted education and providing funding for staff positions accordingly, modified by the district's state share. For FY2022 and FY2023, Ohio assigns a ratio of 1 gifted intervention specialist per 140 gifted students and 1 gifted coordinator per 3,300 students, determines the cost of providing these resources, and multiplies this amount by the district's state share percentage. For the purposes of calculating gifted funding, gifted intervention specialists cost $89,378 per unit for grades K-8 and $80,974 per unit for grades 9-12, with a minimum of 0.3 units for each district. Gifted coordinators cost $85,776 per unit, with a minimum of 0.5 and a maximum of eight units allocated per district. Districts also receive funding for gifted identification, referral, and professional development in an amount that varies depending on the district's state share. Districts receive $24 for each student in grades K-6 multiplied by their state share percentage for gifted identification, $2.50 for each student multiplied by their state share percentage for gifted referral, and the greater of their gifted enrollment or 10% of the district's student count multiplied by their state share percentage for gifted professional development.

Oklahoma	Oklahoma provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.34 to the base per-pupil amount for these students. The number of students generating funding for this purpose is the lesser of the sum of the number of students scoring in the top 3% on any national standardized test of intellectual ability and the number of students formally identified as gifted, or the sum of the number of students who scored in the top 3% on any national standardized test of intellectual ability plus 8% of the total enrollment of the school district. The funding is actually provided in an amount equal to 0.34 times the per-pupil base amount, distributed in addition to the student's own base amount funding, which is first adjusted for grade level.
Oregon	Oregon does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students. However, the state does appropriate $150,000 annually for a statewide Talented and Gifted staff member to provide districts with technical assistance.
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Rhode Island	Rhode Island does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
South Carolina	South Carolina provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.15 to the base per-pupil amount for these students. Students enrolled in gifted and talented courses, Advanced Placement courses, or International Baccalaureate courses are eligible for this funding. Each student may generate this supplemental funding only once.
South Dakota	South Dakota does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students.
Tennessee	Tennessee provides increased funding for gifted and talented students as part of special education funding. Tennessee includes gifted and talented students in the count of special needs students for funding purposes. This means that gifted students are counted along with students with disabilities for the purposes of allocating funds for special education teachers and other personnel, materials and supplies, instructional equipment, and travel. See "Special Education" for a description of this allocation.

Texas	Texas provides increased funding to schools for gifted and talented students by applying a multiplier of 1.07 to the base per-pupil amount for students identified as gifted and talented. The statewide allotment for gifted and talented programming is limited to $100 million per year. Texas districts must identify gifted and talented students with strategies consistent with the state plan for gifted and talented education. No more than 5% of a district's students are eligible for supplemental gifted and talented funding. Districts must use these funds to support gifted and talented programs, including International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs. Once gifted and talented education funds are allocated to districts, the state board of education may use up to $500,000 of the remaining funds to support various academic and enrichment programs. If the amount of state funds for which school districts are eligible exceeds the amount appropriated in any year for gifted and talented education, the commissioner will reduce each district's allocation by the same percentage.
Utah	Utah provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through a program-based allocation. Districts and charter schools that apply to the state receive funding for gifted and talented programs. An appropriation is divided among applicants according to a formula set by the Utah State Board of Education. In FY2022, the amount appropriated for this purpose was $3.63 million. This amount was 60% of a larger appropriation for accelerated student programming; the other 40% was designated for districts offering Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate programs. Funding for gifted and talented programs is distributed to districts that apply, divided in proportion to each district's count of K-8 students compared with the total number of K-8 students in all districts that apply. Districts are required to submit plans for the funds, including plans for how they will increase identification of students underrepresented in gifted and talented programs, and funding may be reduced if districts fail to progress toward goals for identifying and retaining underrepresented students in these programs.
Vermont	Vermont does not provide increased funding for gifted and talented students. However, the state secretary of education administers the Challenge to Excellence Grant Program, which provides grants of up to $50,000 for various educational goals, including programs for gifted students.

Virginia	Virginia provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through the resource-based component of its formula by specifying student-to-staff ratios for gifted education and providing funding for staff positions accordingly, and by funding outside-school programming for students identified as gifted. The state assigns a ratio of 1,000 enrolled students to 1 gifted education teacher. This ratio determines the number of gifted education teacher units to which a district is entitled. The actual number of students identified as gifted is not considered in the allocation of these units. The state also provides funding for Governor's School programs, which are academic-year and summer programs that provide gifted students with academic and visual and performing arts opportunities beyond those normally available in their home schools.
Washington	Washington provides increased funding to districts for gifted and talented students. It does so through its resource-based formula that assigns hours of instructional time to provide funding and staff positions for a set proportion of district enrollment assumed to be gifted and talented. Washington assumes that gifted students make up 5% of the overall population in school districts. The state assigns a rate of 2.159 hours per week of additional instructional time for every 15 full-time-equivalent gifted students. These hours are converted into full-time-equivalent staff positions. The state then provides funding for staff positions by multiplying the state minimum salary allocation for each staff type by an adjustment for regional cost.
West Virginia	West Virginia includes increased funding for gifted and talented students. These students are included in the number of students with exceptionalities used in the funding formula for state aid for special education.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so in the form of competitive grant program. The state awards grants to school districts, cooperative educational service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and institutions within the University of Wisconsin system for the purpose of providing special services and activities to gifted and talented students. The grants are awarded by application. In FY2021, the total amount appropriated for this purpose was $474,400, and individual awards were limited to $30,000.
Wyoming	Wyoming provides increased funding for gifted and talented students. It does so through a flat allocation for each student in the district. In FY2019, the state provided districts with $40.29 per student to support gifted and talented education. This money is allocated in accordance with the total enrollment of the district. This funding is allocated with no use restrictions.

For a complete list of primary sources, please see the appropriate state page at funded.edbuild.org