Sparsity and/or Small Size

Some states provide increased funding for schools or districts that are rural, remote, isolated, sparsely populated, or small. This report indicates which states consider the rurality, remoteness, isolation, sparsity, or small size of schools or districts when allocating state education funding, and if applicable, how they do so.

Alabama	Alabama does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Alaska	Alaska provides increased funding for the sparse districts and small schools. It does so by applying a multiplier applied to the base per-pupil amount for students in sparse districts (the multiplier can range from 1 to 2.116, depending on the district's geographic size) and by grouping small schools together for funding purposes.
Arizona	Arizona provides increased funding for small and isolated school districts. It does so by applying a multiplier to the base per-pupil for students in these districts. The multiplier can range from 1.158 to 1.669, depending on the size of the school and the grade levels served.
Arkansas	Arkansas provides increased funding for school districts with one or more isolated school areas. It does so in three ways: by applying a multiplier to the base per-pupil for students in these districts that varies depending on the characteristics of the district; by providing a per-pupil amount for each student in these districts; and by dividing certain transportation funding among these districts.
California	California provides increased funding for small schools. It does so in the form of a supplementary payment to eligible schools, the amount of which varies depending on the district's enrollment and its number of teachers or certificated employees.
Colorado	Colorado provides increased funding for small, remote schools through a supplemental payment, and for small districts by applying a multiplier to the base per-pupil amount that can range from 1.0297 to 2.3858, depending on the district's enrollment.
Connecticut	Connecticut is not currently making use of its education funding formula and has not done so for several years. Though the formula has not been repealed or replaced, instead of calculating district's state education aid in accordance with that formula, the state legislature now awards each district a block grant. The grant amounts are specified in legislation.
Delaware	Delaware does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.

Florida	Florida provides increased funding for sparse school districts by distributing a per-student grant. The precise amount of the grant is calculated through a formula that considers the district's enrollment and its number of high schools. The initial calculation provides no less than $100 per student. However, districts with high property values are subject to a wealth adjustment.
Georgia	Georgia provides increased funding for small districts in the form of a supplemental grant.
Hawaii	Hawaii provides increased funding for neighbor islands. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.004 to the base per-pupil amount for students living on neighbor islands.
Idaho	Idaho provides increased funding for rural schools that submit approved petitions to the State Board of Education.
Illinois	Illinois does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Indiana	Indiana does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Iowa	Iowa does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Kansas	Kansas has suspended its student funding formula. School districts currently receive funding in the form of a block grant.
Kentucky	Kentucky does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Louisiana	Louisiana provides increased funding for small school systems. It does so by applying a multiplier to the base per-pupil amount that can range from 1.0 to 1.2, depending on the district's enrollment.
Maine	Maine provides increased funding to isolated, small schools by applying a multiplier to the base per-pupil amount that varies from district to district.
Maryland	Maryland does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Massachusetts	Massachusetts does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Michigan	Michigan provides increased funding for sparse districts, small and remote districts, and districts with low and decreasing enrollment. It does so in three ways: by providing supplemental funding for small and remote districts; by providing supplemental funding for sparse districts that are not small and remote; and by modestly inflating the student count for sparse districts with low and decreasing enrollment.
Minnesota	Minnesota provides increased funding for small schools in the form of a supplemental per-student allocation, and for sparse school districts through three multi-step formulas.

Mississippi	Mississippi provides increased funding for sparse school districts through its transportation funding system.
Missouri	Missouri provides increased funding for small schools through a flat per-student grant for all districts serving 350 students or less.
Montana	Montana does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Nebraska	Nebraska provides increased funding for certain schools in sparse districts and for small schools. For districts with elementary schools that are remote from one another, a supplemental allowance is calculated for all eligible students. For small schools, an adjustment is made to the base amount of per-student funding.
Nevada	Nevada passed legislation authorizing a new funding formula in 2015, and the details of the formula are still to be determined.
New Hampshire	New Hampshire does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
New Jersey	New Jersey does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
New Mexico	New Mexico provides increased funding for small schools and districts. It does so by inflating the student count to generate extra funding.
New York	New York provides increased funding for sparse school districts. It does so in the form of supplemental per-pupil funding for districts in an amount that corresponds to their levels of sparsity. The state also provides small school funding for schools with fewer than 8 teachers, and uses a transportation funding system that considers the density of students in the district.
North Carolina	North Carolina provides increased funding for small school districts. It does so through a formula that provides additional funding for teacher salaries.
North Dakota	North Dakota provides additional funding for sparse school districts, which it does by applying a multiplier of 1.1 to base per-pupil amount for students in these districts, and for small districts, which it does by applying a multiplier to the base per-pupil amount that can range from 1.0 to 1.36, depending on the district's total student enrollment.
Ohio	Ohio provides increased funding for sparse school districts through its transportation funding system.

Oklahoma	Oklahoma provides increased funding for sparse school districts through its transportation funding system. The state also provides districts with supplemental funding through either a formula that inflates the student count for sparse districts to generate extra funding or one that does the same for small school districts, whichever would produce the larger amount.
Oregon	Oregon provides increased funding for small and remote elementary schools and for small high schools. In both cases, funding is provided through a supplemental per-student amount calculated through a formula that considers school enrollment and the number of grades served by the school, with the elementary school formula also considering the remoteness of the school. Small high schools also receive an additional supplemental grant.
Pennsylvania	The state of Pennsylvania does not have a funding formula in use at this time.
Rhode Island	Rhode Island does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
South Carolina	South Carolina does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
South Dakota	South Dakota provides additional funding for sparse school districts by applying a multiplier to the per-student base amount for students in these districts. The state also provides funding for small schools through a per-pupil grant that varies depending on the school's total enrollment.
Tennessee	Tennessee does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.
Texas	Texas provides increased funding for sparse school districts by inflating the student count to generate extra funding. The state also provides funding for small and mid-sized school districts through a formula that increases the per-pupil based amount.
Utah	Utah provides increased funding for school districts operating small schools, including small schools in remote areas, by inflating the student count to generate extra funding. The state also provides transportation assistance funding for districts transporting small student populations to remote school locations.
Vermont	Vermont provides increased funding for very small districts by distributing a per-student grant of at most $2,500 per student. The precise amount of the grant is calculated through a formula that considers the district's enrollment. The state also provides assistance to districts facing high transportation costs due to geographic dispersion.
Virginia	Virginia does not provide increased funding for sparse districts or small schools.

Washington	Washington provides increased funding for small school districts in the form of additional funded staff positions, with the precise number of positions dependent on district grade levels and enrollment levels. The state also guarantees a minimum number of teacher positions for small districts operating only two high schools. State transportation funding is also calculated using a formula that considers district sparsity.
West Virginia	West Virginia provides increased funding for small school districts by inflating the student count to generate extra funding. The state also considers district sparsity in the specified student-to-staff ratios that generate funding for staff positions.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin provides increased funding for sparse school districts by distributing a per-student grant of $300 per student in these districts. The state also provides additional assistance with transportation costs for certain sparse districts.
Wyoming	Wyoming provides increased funding for small schools and districts by guaranteeing minimum numbers of staff positions for schools and districts with low enrollment.

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