

Funded: Mississippi Report

A Detailed Look at Mississippi's Funding Policies



Mississippi



Funding Basics

Formula Type

Mississippi has a hybrid funding formula incorporating both resource-based and student-based elements.

The state determines the cost of delivering education to a student with no special needs or services based on the cost of the resources, such as staff salaries and maintenance services, required to do so. This cost is then used as a base amount. The state accounts for the additional cost of educating specific categories of students both through program-specific allocations and by applying multipliers to the base amount to generate supplemental funding for certain students.

Base Amount

Mississippi has a fixed base funding amount per student. For FY2016, the per-student base amount was \$5,354.98.

This means that an average student with no special needs or disadvantages would be funded at that level.

Expected Local Share

Mississippi expects school districts to contribute revenue to the funding of public schools. The amount each district is expected to raise for its education costs is based on its property values: each district is expected to contribute \$28.00 for every thousand dollars of assessed local property wealth (subject to different assessment ratios for different classes of property) for the purpose of funding its schools.

As a matter of policy, the state should not contribute less than 73% of the amount of funds calculated by the state to be necessary to educate the students within each district, regardless of its local wealth. However, in practice, the state may provide a smaller share of districts' needed funding if the legislature appropriates insufficient funding to cover the 73% requirement.

Student Characteristics

Grade Level

Mississippi does not differentiate funding based on students' grade levels.

English Language Learner

Mississippi does not provide increased funding for English language learners.

Student Poverty

Mississippi provides increased funding for students from low-income households. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.05 to the base per-pupil amount for these students.

Students are eligible for this supplemental funding if they qualify for free lunch (but not reduced-price lunch) under the National School Lunch Program.

Special Education

Mississippi funds special education using a resource-based system, determining the cost of delivering special education services in a district based on the cost of the resources, staff positions in particular, required to do so.

The state estimates the number of special education teacher units that each district will need, calculates the average salary drawn by special education teachers in each district based on personnel reports from the prior year, and then multiplies these numbers to produce the Special Education Add-On Allocation, which districts may use as they see fit.

Gifted

Mississippi provides additional resources 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.

Career and Technical Education

Mississippi provides specific funding for career and technical education (CTE) programs. It does so through its resource-based formula by allocating funding in an amount equal to each district's anticipated costs for salaries for teachers in CTE programs.

Annually, the state's Office of Career and Technical Education provides an estimate of the teacher units needed for each district's CTE education programs to the Office of School Financial Services, which calculates the average salary drawn by CTE 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 CTE.



Community Characteristics

District Poverty

Mississippi does not provide increased funding based on the concentration of students from low-income households in a particular district.

Sparsity and/or Small Size

Mississippi provides increased funding for sparse school districts through its transportation funding system.

Mississippi calculates the density for each school district by dividing the total student enrollment by the total square miles in the district, and then provides districts with a variable amount per enrolled student based on a calculated aid ratio. Per-student funding ranges from approximately \$85 to \$260 per student per year.

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

