K-12 and Special Education Funding

Small Size or Isolated Funding Adjustment

Filters:

October 2021

Funding mechanisms

- *Flat weight*: A single weight or dollar amount allocated by the state for students or districts that qualify based on certain factors or student needs. Allocations determined by flat weights do not vary based on specific program needs or student characteristics. For example, a state may provide a fixed dollar amount for each student whose family qualifies as low income to help fund additional programs to support the needs of those students.
- *Multiple student weights*: More than one weight or dollar amount is allocated by the state based on certain factors or student needs. States vary the amount allocated based on student need. For example, some states vary funding for students learning English as a second language, allocating more funds to students who are less fluent in English.
- *Census-based*: The state allocates funds to each district based on an assumed level of enrollment, regardless of the district's actual demographics. This type of funding can be used in foundation formula model funding and resource allocation model funding.
- *Resource-based allocation*: All districts receive a minimum base amount of resources. Resources could be staffing, services or programs, and are often based on a ratio of staffing to students.
- *Reimbursement system*: Districts submit receipts of eligible expenditures to the state, and the state reimburses districts for all or a portion of those expenditures.
- *High-cost services funding*: This type of funding is often coupled with other funding distribution methods, and funds can be distributed as grants or reimbursements. For example, a district may be responsible for the cost of special education services up to a certain threshold, but if costs exceed that threshold, a state may provide additional funding to the district.
- *Categorical grant*: The state distributes funds based on student characteristics or program needs to districts that demonstrate eligibility and/or a need for funding. For example, a state may provide a funding supplement for a small or isolated school district, based on that designation alone.
- *Hybrid*: The state distributes funds using two or more funding mechanisms. For example, a state may provide additional funding for students from low-income backgrounds using two funding streams, like a flat weight and a categorical grant.

50-State Comparisons on each data point are here.

STATE	Small Size or Isolated Adjustment? (Y/N)	Small Size Funding Mechanism	Small Size Program Name	Small Size Amount (Dollar amount or weight)	Small Size Identifier	Source
Alabama	No					

STATE	Small Size or Isolated Adjustment? (Y/N)	Small Size Funding Mechanism	Small Size Program Name	Small Size Amount (Dollar amount or weight)	Small Size Identifier	Source
Alaska	Yes	Multiple Student Weights	School size factor	Based on their size, schools receive a funding factor between 1.62 (for smallest schools) and .84 (for largest schools) for each student beyond the base student count for each size range.	Number of students	AK ST § 14.17.450
Arizona	Yes	Multiple Student Weights	Base Support Level	Based on size, grade levels, and category (small or small isolated), districts receive an additional per pupil weight between 0.669 (for smallest isolated schools serving grades 9-12) and 0.158 (for small schools serving grades K-8).	Multiple - Number of students and distance	AZ ST § 15-943 AZ ST § 15-901
Arkansas	Yes	Multiple Student Weights	Public School Fund	Based on ADM, the number of schools designated as isolated, and density ratios, a district may qualify for one or more additional per pupil weights ranging from 0.05 to 0.2 applied to the ADM.	Multiple - Number of students, distance, and population density	AR ST § 6-20-601 AR ST § 6-20-604
California	Yes	Categorical grant	Necessary Small Schools	Depending on school enrollment, grades served, and minimum employee thresholds, each school receives a flat amount defined in statute and adjusted for inflation, ranging from $52,925 to $707,100.	Multiple - Number of students and distance	CA EDUC § 42282 through § 42285
Colorado	Yes	Multiple Student Weights	District Size Factor	A size factor is applied based on enrollment, plus a small additional weight for each pupil under the maximum of the size category (for districts smaller than 5000): Less than 276 - 0.5457 276 to 458 - 0.2385 459 to 1026 - 0.1215 1027 to 2292 - 0.0533 2293 to 3499 - 0.0368 3500 to 4999 - 0.0297 5000+ - 0.0297	Number of students	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-54-104
Connecticut	No					
Delaware	No					

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District of Columbia	No					
Florida	Yes	Flat weight	Small, Isolated Schools	An additional student weight of 1.75 is applied.	Multiple - Number of students and distance	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1011.62
Georgia	Yes	Categorical grant	Sparsity grants	Subject to appropriations	Number of students	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-292
Hawaii	Yes	Flat weight	Neighbor Islands	Additional student weight of 0.008	Other	Hawaii State Department of Education
Idaho	Yes	Resource-based allocation	Remote Schools	Subject to state board determination.	Other	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1003
Illinois	No					
Indiana	No					
Iowa	No					

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Kansas	Yes	Multiple student weights	Low enrollment weighting	For districts with enrollment of fewer than 100 students: 1.014331 For districts with enrollment between 100 and 300 students, apply the following calculation to determine the weighting: 1.) Subtract 100 from the enrollment of the district. 2.) Multiply the result by 9.655. 3.) Subtract the result by 7337. 4.) Divide the difference by 3642.4. 5.) Subtract one from the quotient. 6.) Multiply the total end result by the enrollment of the district, which produces the weight for the district. For districts with enrollment between 300 and 1622 students, apply the following calculation to determine the weighting: 1.) Subtract 300 from the enrollment of the district. 2.) Multiply the result by 1.2375. 3.) Subtract the result by 5406. 4.) Divide the difference by 3642.4. 5.) Subtract one from the quotient. 6.) Multiply the total end result by the enrollment of the district, which produces the weight for the district.	Number of students	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-5149
Kentucky	No					
Louisiana	Yes	Multiple student weights	Minimum Foundation Program	Economy scale weight ranges from an additional 0 - 20% for student populations equal to 7,500 or less.	Number of students	SCR 2 (2021 legislative session) La. Const. Ann. art. VIII, § 13

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Maine	Yes	Hybrid - Multiple student weights and resource allocation	Essential Programs and Services	Adjustments are made to both the student-to-staff ratios and the per-pupil amount for operations and maintenance and other essential programs as established by the commissioner.	Multiple - Number of students and distance from school	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 15683 Maine Department of Education Reports and Presentations
Maryland	No					
Massachusetts	Yes	Categorical grant	Rural School Aid	4000000	Student density	2021-2022 Final Budget Chapter 24
Michigan	Yes	Hybrid - Multiple student weights and categorical grant	Supplemental Payments to Rural Districts	State allocates $8,420,000 for supplemental payments to districts (2021-2022). Categorical grant - Schools meeting size and geographic barrier eligibility submit a spending plan to receive portion of $1,557,300 from the above amount. Multiple student weights - Schools meeting density criteria receive a dollar amount or percentage of remaining funds.	Multiple - School size, geographic barriers, and density	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1622d
Minnesota	Yes	Multiple student weights	Elementary and Secondary Sparsity Revenue Transportation Sparsity Revenue	Elementary, secondary, and transportation sparsity aid are calculated by separate formulas that provide different dollar amounts based on school size, miles to nearest school, and square mile attendance area.	Multiple - Distance and number of students	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 126C.10
Mississippi	No					
Missouri	Yes	Categorical grant	Small Schools Program	Grant of $15 million (2020-2021)	Number of students	HB 2002 (Budget bill)

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Montana	Yes	Multiple student weights	Base Amount for School Equity (BASE)	Per student funding called the per-ANB entitlement varies based on district size with smaller districts receiving larger per student funding than larger districts. Districts per student funding dollar amount decreases by 50 cents for every high school student and 20 cents for every junior high school and elementary school student up to a maximum amount.	Number of students	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306
Nebraska	Yes	Flat Weight	Basic funding	For districts with a student enrollment of 900 or fewer, funding equals the average operating expenditures for a comparison group of 10 schools with similar student populations, excluding the two districts with the highest and lowest operating expenditures within the comparison group.	Number of students	Neb.Rev.St. § 79-1007.16
Nevada	Yes	Multiple student weights	Pupil Centered Funding Plan	There is a district size adjustment by attendance area. The weight ranges from an additional 24.00 for an enrollment area of 1 to an additional 0.04 for an attendance area of 50,000 or above.	Number of students	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 387.1218
New Hampshire	No					
New Jersey	No					
New Mexico	Yes	Multiple student weights	State Equalization Guarantee - Size Adjustment Program Units	Schools with fewer than 400 students receive additional 1.0 to 2.0 program units depending on the size of the school, the grade-level, and the size of the district. Funding for schools with less than 400 students that are located in a district with more than 2,000 students will be phased out from receiving funding by 2024. School districts with fewer than 4,000 students can receive an additional 0.15 program units.	Number of students	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-8-23

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New York	Yes	Multiple student weights	Foundation Aid	The extraordinary needs percent (based on economic disadvantage, English language learners and sparsity) ranges between an additional 1.0 and 2.0. Also receive additional transportation aid.	Density (students enrolled per square mile)	"N.Y. Educ. Law § 3602 New York State Education Department State Aid Handbook (2021-2022)"
North Carolina	Yes	Categorical grant	Small County School System Supplemental Funding	For FYs 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, districts receive an additional lump-sum payment based on their alloted average daily membership (ADM) count: - Districts with an ADM of 0 - 1,300: $1,820,000 - Districts with an ADM of 1,301 - 1,700: $1,548,700 - Districts with an ADM of 1,701 - 2,000: $1,600,000 - Districts with an ADM of 2,001 - 2,300: $1,560,000 - Districts with an ADM of 2,301 - 2,600: $1,470,000 - Districts with an ADM of 2,601 - 2,800: $1,498,000 - Districts with an ADM of 2,801 - 3,300: $1,548,000	Number of students	S.B. 105, Sec. 7.4 (2021 Legislative Session)

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North Dakota	Yes	Multiple student weights	Weighted average daily membership & School district size weighting factor	Through the weighted average membership formula, an additional weight of .10 is provided per student for districts has fewer than 100 enrolled students and the district consist of an area greater than 275 square miles. For districts with fewer than 50 enrolled students and an area greater than 600 square miles are deemed to have an average daily membership of 50. Through the school district size weighting factor formula, schools are assigned a baseline school district size weighting factor based on the number of students counted under average daily membership. A weight of 1.36 is provided to districts with an average daily membership of fewer than 110 students. The weight incrementally decreases by .01 as student population increases, ending on a weight of 1.00 for an average daily membership number of 900. Beginning the 2021-2022 school year, the baseline school district size weighting factors are increased annually until a new range of weights is fully realized beginning the 2027-2028 school year.	Number of students	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-27-03.1 N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-27-03.2
Ohio	No					
Oklahoma	Yes	Flat weight	Small School District Formula; District sparsity--isolation formula	Districts receive additional funding from one of the following formulas, whichever produces the greatest amount for the district: Small school district formula: [(529 - averaged daily membership)/529] X additional weight of .2 ADM District sparsity--isolation formula: The school district cost factor multiplied by the school district area factor, the result of which is multiplied by the school district's average daily membership.	Multiple - Number of students, population density, other	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 18-201.1

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Oregon	Yes	Multiple student weights	Qualification as remote small elementary school or small high school	Qualifying remote small elementary schools: Weight of .0045 Distance adjustment for qualifying remote small elementary school: Weight of .025 Qualifying small high school: Weight of .0029	Number of students	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 327.077
Pennsylvania	Yes	Flat weight	Sparsity/size adjustment	Additional weight of .7 Only the top 30% most sparse, small districts receive additional funding.	Multiple - Number of students, population density	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 25-2502.53
Rhode Island	No					
South Carolina	No					
South Dakota	Yes	Hybrid - resource-based allocation and categorical grant	Target teacher ratio factor; Distribution of funds to sparse school districts	Target teacher ratio factor: The state provides increased funding for small school districts by setting lower student-to-teacher ratios to calculate their state aid amount. School districts with an enrollment count of 200 students or less are funded at a targeted teacher ratio of 12 students to 1 teacher. Distribution of funds to sparse school districts: Funding is allocated based on the following formula: 1.) Divide average daily membership by the area of the district in square miles. 2.) Multiply the result of step 1 by negative .125 3.) Add .0625 to the result of step 2. 4.) Multiply the result of step 3 by the average daily membership of the school. Districts may receive up to 1.75 times the per pupil funding equivalent but may not receive more than $110,000 per year.	Multiple - Number of students, student density, distance, local property tax rate	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-13-10.1 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-13-78 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-13-79
Tennessee	No					

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Texas	Yes	Multiple student weights	Small and Mid-Sized District Allotment	For small districts (those with fewer than 1,600 students), the following formula is used to determine the annual allotment: ((1,600 - average daily attendance) X .0004) X the base amount. For school districts with fewer than 300 students, the following formula is used to determine the annual allotment: ((1,600 - average daily attendance) X .00047) X the base amount. For mid-sized districts (those with fewer than 5,000 students), the greater of the following formulas is used to determine the annual allotment: A.) ((1,600 - average daily attendance) X .0004) X the base amount, if the school qualifies for the formula; or B.) ((5,000 - average daily attendance) X .000025) X the base amount.	Number of students	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 48.101
Utah	Yes	Categorical grant	Rural school district transportation grants	Grants awarded based on the prior-year miles traveled	Population	Utah Code Ann. § 53F-2-417
Vermont	Yes	Hybrid - categorical grant and multiple student weights	Small school support grant	Greater of (1) a formula grant that multiplies average enrollment by $500 and subtracts from $50,000 or (2) a range of weights from an additional 0.015 to 0.19 based on average grade size.	Multiple - Average grade size, Travel times or inhospitable travel routes, high student-to-staff ratios, percentage of students from economically deprived backgrounds, or participation in a merger study.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 4015
Virginia	No					
Washington	Yes	Categorical grant	Small school plants	Subject to appropriations	Multiple - Number of students, Travel times	Wash. Admin. Code § 392-349-010

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West Virginia	Yes	Multiple student weights	Funding for counties with net enrollment less than 1,400 students	For districts with a net student enrollment of less than 1,400, the state's funding formula increases the district's net enrollment by an amount according to the following formula: (1) Find the difference between the district's actual enrollment and 1,400; (2) Find the percentage of dividing the district's student population density by the student population of the district with the lowest density in the state; (3) Multiply the difference found in step (1) by the percentage found in step (2) (4) Add 10% of the resulting amount found in step (3). If the increased net enrollment determined by this formula causes the district's net enrollment to exceed 1,400 students, then the net enrollment is reduced to 1,400.	Multiple - Number of students, Population density	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-9A-2(5)
Wisconsin	Yes	Categorical grant	Sparsity Aid	Starting the 2021-2022 school year, provides additional amount of $100 multiplied by the eligible school district's membership.	Number of students	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 115.436
Wyoming	Yes	Resource-based allocation	Minimum Staff Small School Adjustment	Provides for minimum amount of (FTE) teachers based on the average daily membership student count: - 6 for elementary schools with greater than 49 ADM; - 9 for secondary schools with greater than 49 ADM; - 7 for middle schools with greater than 49 ADM; - 9 for high schools with greater than 49 ADM. Provides a minimum amount of central office staff for districts with an ADM at or below 500: - 3 administrative positions and 3 secretarial	Number of students	WY H.B. 236 (2017) Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-13-101(a)(xvii)

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Total answers	Yes: 34 No: 17	Multiple Weights: 15 Categorical : 8 Flat weight: 5 Hybrid: 4 Resource-based: 2			# students: 16 Multiple: 13 Other: 2 Student density: 1 Density: 1 Population: 1	