

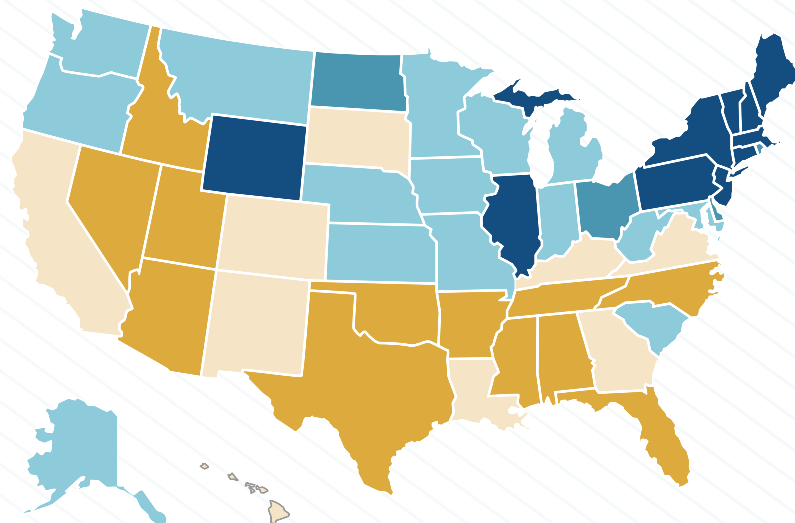
# Making the Grade 2023

## How Fair Is School Funding in Your State?

*Making the Grade analyzes the condition of public school funding in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Using the most recently available data from the 2020-21 school year, we rank and grade each state on three measures: funding level, distribution, and effort.*

### Funding Level

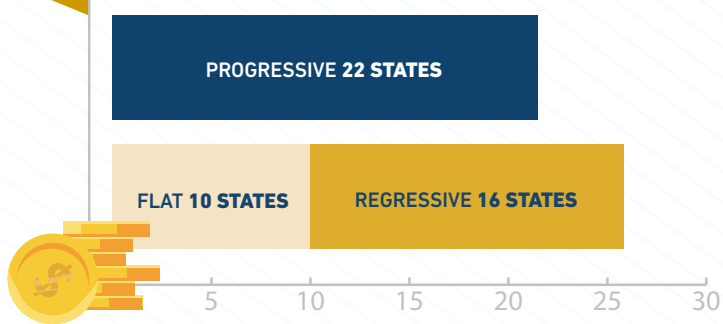
The U.S. has vast school funding disparities among states. There is a nearly \$17,000 per student difference between the highest (New York) and lowest (Idaho) funded states. Even after adjusting for regional cost differences, states in the South and West have markedly lower funding levels than states in the Northeast and Midwest.



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### Funding Distribution

#### SCHOOL FUNDING DISTRIBUTION



The hallmark of a fair school funding system is that it delivers more funding to educate students in high-poverty districts. States allocating more funds to high-poverty districts have a "progressive" distribution. States that do not provide more for poor districts are either "flat" or "regressive."

### Funding Effort

"Effort" is the percentage of GDP a state puts into its public schools. It's based on both the state's overall wealth and the state and local funding allocated to education. That means a wealthier state will generate higher funding levels than a poorer state, even with the *same* effort.

	GDP PER CAPITA	FUNDING EFFORT	FUNDING LEVEL
NEW YORK	\$76,283	.039	\$27,265
WEST VIRGINIA	\$39,956	.039	\$16,091

### Why Does Fair School Funding Matter?

A fair, equitable, and adequate school funding formula is the basic building block of a well-resourced and academically successful school system for all students. The research on the needs of vulnerable student populations for extra academic and academically-related programs and services is compelling, as is the growing evidence that increasing investments in these students improves their achievement and other outcomes.