



SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

50-State Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of 2023, 44 states plus the District of Columbia provide schools with supplemental funding for their low-income students. Policymakers often want to understand how the *amount* of extra funding they provide for low-income students compares to other states. Because states use different methodologies to determine these amounts, previous studies have not allowed apples-to-apples comparisons. This brief examines actual funding to estimate the supplemental funding per low-income student and the equivalent funding weight, or percentage above base funding.

Nationwide, the median amount of extra funding is \$1,273 per low-income student, ranging from \$35 to \$6,275. The median weight is 1.22, or 22 percent above the base funding, ranging from 1.0048 to 1.91. Table I divides states into quintiles, from the highest supplemental funding amount per low-income student to the lowest. The table also shows the average supplemental amount for each group of states. Table II does the same based on the funding weights.

Table I: Supplemental Funding Per Low-Income Student by Quintile

Highest	2	3	4	Lowest
\$4,294 average	\$2,031	\$1,065	\$392	\$41
California	Illinois	Arkansas	Delaware	Alabama
Connecticut	Kansas	Colorado	Hawaii	Alaska*
District of Columbia	Minnesota	Louisiana	Kentucky	Arizona
Indiana	Nebraska	Maine	Mississippi	Florida*
Maryland	New Hampshire	Michigan	Missouri	Georgia*
Massachusetts	South Carolina	New Mexico	Nevada	Idaho*
New Jersey	Tennessee	Oklahoma	North Carolina	Iowa
New York	Texas	Oregon	North Dakota	Montana
Rhode Island	Vermont	Virginia	Ohio	South Dakota*
Wisconsin	Wyoming	Washington	Pennsylvania	Utah
				West Virginia*

Table II: Supplemental Funding Weights for Low-Income Students by Quintile

Highest	2	3	4	Lowest
1.58 average	1.29	1.18	1.07	1.007
Indiana	California	Arkansas	Delaware	Alabama
Kansas	Connecticut	Colorado	Hawaii	Alaska*
Maryland	District of Columbia	Kentucky	Michigan	Arizona
Massachusetts	Illinois	Louisiana	Mississippi	Florida*
New Hampshire	Minnesota	Maine	Missouri	Georgia*
New Jersey	New Mexico	Nebraska	Nevada	Idaho*
New York	Oklahoma	Texas	North Carolina	Iowa
Pennsylvania	Oregon	Virginia	Ohio	Montana
Rhode Island	Tennessee	Wisconsin	Utah	North Dakota
South Carolina	Vermont	Wyoming	Washington	South Dakota*
				West Virginia*

*These states do not provide any supplemental funding for low-income students.



INTRODUCTION

Most states provide supplemental school funding for low-income students. For each low-income student enrolled in a school district, the district receives extra funding on top of the normal base funding for other students. This extra funding reflects the belief by many policymakers that a school whose student population is 90 percent low-income, for example, should not receive the same as a school that has 10 percent low-income students. The school that serves more low-income students will need to provide more services, because these students need more support to achieve the same outcomes as their more advantaged peers.

For states that provide or seek to provide this supplemental funding, a common question is *how much* extra funding they should provide for low-income students. Conceptually, there are two major factors to consider. First, there is the cost of the extra services that low-income students may need. If the extra funding is insufficient to pay for these services, then the district will need to subsidize the services out of its base funding, which can negatively impact all students.

A second factor is the intersection of extra funding with school choice, which is expanding in many states. If certain schools do not receive enough funding to provide the extra services low-income students need, parents will have more limited choices in finding appropriate schools for their student. In contrast, if sufficient additional funding can follow all low-income students to schools of their choice, those parents can choose from the full variety of school options, including traditional public schools, charter schools and private schools participating in choice programs.¹

In considering these two factors, state policymakers often want to understand how much extra funding other, comparable states are providing for their low-income students. This can be challenging, because states use different methodologies to determine the extra funding amount. And while various resources are available describing how states structure their supplemental funding, they do not show how *much* funding is provided in a way that enables meaningful and consistent comparisons across states.²

This brief does show how much supplemental funding per low-income student each state is providing, giving policymakers a general sense of how their states compare to others. The simplest way is to compare funding weights, which are multiplied against the base funding per student to calculate the supplemental funding amount per student. For example, a weight of 1.25 means 25 percent above base; with a base of \$8,000 per student, this weight equals \$2,000 extra for each low-income student. A higher weight means more supplemental funding.

However, states have different bases, such that the same weight in one state can provide more supplemental funding than another. If another state has a weight of 1.25 but a base of \$4,000, the extra funding is \$1,000 per low-income student. Therefore, it is important to consider both the weight and how much extra funding is actually provided per low-income student.³

50-STATE COMPARISON

Chart I shows the weights and supplement funding for each state. Nationwide, the median weight is 1.22, and the median supplemental funding is \$1,273 per low-income student. The tables that follow show each state, ordered alphabetically, by supplemental amount per student and by weight. The extra funding amount ranges widely, from \$35 to \$6,275 per low-income student. The weight ranges from 1.0048 to 1.91.

¹ See ExcelinEd, [Student-Centered State Funding: A How-to Guide for State Policymakers](#) (2017).

² See, e.g., EdBuild's [database](#); Education Commission of the State's [database](#).

³ See the Appendix for more details on methodology. Another factor is how broadly or narrowly a state defines "low-income." Many states set the criteria at about 200 percent of the federal poverty level, while others go as low as 100 percent, resulting in significantly fewer eligible students.



Chart I: Supplemental Funding for Low-Income Students

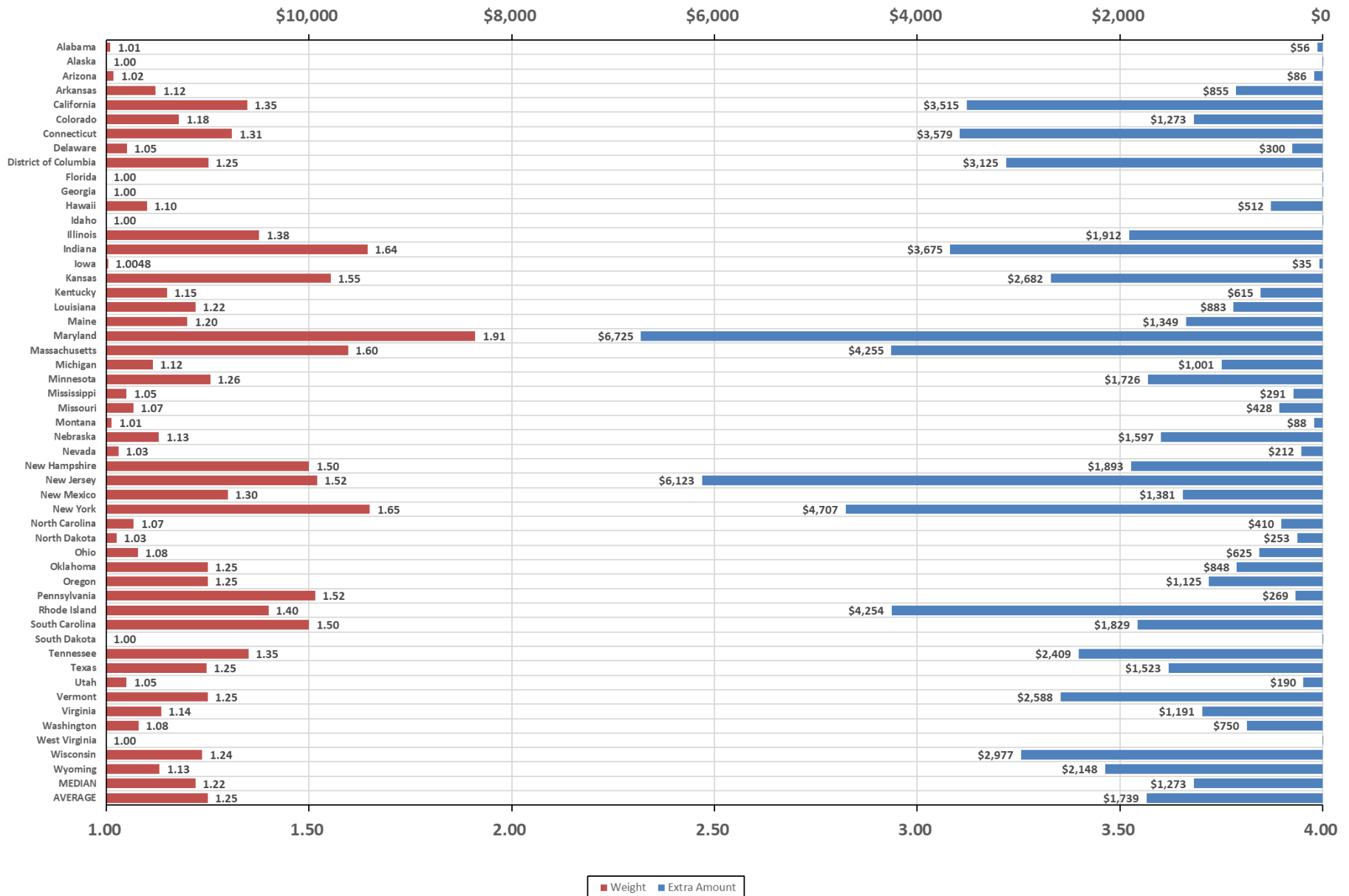




Table I: Supplemental Funding for Low-Income Students (Alphabetical)

State	Extra Amount	Weight
Alabama	\$56	1.01
Alaska		
Arizona	\$86	1.018
Arkansas	\$855	1.12
California	\$3,515	1.35
Colorado	\$1,273	1.18
Connecticut	\$3,579	1.31
Delaware	\$300	1.05
District of Columbia	\$3,125	1.25
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii	\$512	1.10
Idaho		
Illinois	\$1,912	1.38
Indiana	\$3,675	1.64
Iowa	\$35	1.0048
Kansas	\$2,682	1.55
Kentucky	\$615	1.15
Louisiana	\$883	1.22
Maine	\$1,349	1.20
Maryland	\$6,725	1.91
Massachusetts	\$4,255	1.60
Michigan	\$1,001	1.12
Minnesota	\$543	1.08
Mississippi	\$291	1.05
Missouri	\$428	1.07
Montana	\$88	1.01
Nebraska	\$1,597	1.13
Nevada	\$212	1.03
New Hampshire	\$1,893	1.50
New Jersey	\$6,123	1.52
New Mexico	\$1,381	1.30
New York	\$4,707	1.65
North Carolina	\$410	1.07
North Dakota	\$253	1.03
Ohio	\$625	1.08
Oklahoma	\$848	1.25
Oregon	\$1,125	1.25
Pennsylvania	\$269	1.52
Rhode Island	\$4,254	1.40
South Carolina	\$1,829	1.50
South Dakota		
Tennessee	\$2,409	1.35
Texas	\$1,523	1.25
Utah	\$190	1.05
Vermont	\$2,588	1.25
Virginia	\$1,191	1.14
Washington	\$750	1.08
West Virginia		
Wisconsin	\$2,977	1.24
Wyoming	\$2,148	1.13
Average	\$1,739	1.25
Median	\$1,273	1.22

Table II: Supplemental Funding for Low-Income Students (Ordered by Weights)

State	Extra Amount	Weight
Maryland	\$6,725	1.91
New York	\$4,707	1.65
Indiana	\$3,675	1.64
Massachusetts	\$4,255	1.60
Kansas	\$2,682	1.55
New Jersey	\$6,123	1.52
Pennsylvania	\$269	1.52
South Carolina	\$1,829	1.50
New Hampshire	\$1,893	1.50
Rhode Island	\$4,254	1.40
Illinois	\$1,912	1.38
Tennessee	\$2,409	1.35
California	\$3,515	1.35
Connecticut	\$3,579	1.31
New Mexico	\$1,381	1.30
Minnesota	\$1,726	1.26
AVERAGE	\$1,739	1.25
District of Columbia	\$3,125	1.25
Oklahoma	\$848	1.25
Oregon	\$1,125	1.25
Vermont	\$2,588	1.25
Texas	\$1,523	1.25
Wisconsin	\$2,977	1.24
MEDIAN	\$1,273	1.22
Louisiana	\$883	1.22
Maine	\$1,349	1.20
Colorado	\$1,273	1.18
Kentucky	\$615	1.15
Virginia	\$1,191	1.14
Wyoming	\$2,148	1.13
Nebraska	\$1,597	1.13
Arkansas	\$855	1.12
Michigan	\$1,001	1.12
Hawaii	\$512	1.10
Washington	\$750	1.08
Ohio	\$625	1.08
Missouri	\$428	1.07
North Carolina	\$410	1.07
Delaware	\$300	1.05
Mississippi	\$291	1.05
Utah	\$190	1.05
Nevada	\$212	1.03
North Dakota	\$253	1.03
Montana	\$88	1.01
Alabama	\$56	1.01
Arizona	\$86	1.018
Iowa	\$35	1.0048
Alaska		
Florida		
Georgia		
Idaho		
South Dakota		
West Virginia		

Table III: Supplemental Funding for Low-Income Students (Ordered by Amount)

State	Extra Amount	Weight
Maryland	\$6,725	1.91
New Jersey	\$6,123	1.52
New York	\$4,707	1.65
Massachusetts	\$4,255	1.60
Rhode Island	\$4,254	1.40
Indiana	\$3,675	1.64
Connecticut	\$3,579	1.31
California	\$3,515	1.35
District of Columbia	\$3,125	1.25
Wisconsin	\$2,977	1.24
Kansas	\$2,682	1.55
Vermont	\$2,588	1.25
Tennessee	\$2,409	1.35
Wyoming	\$2,148	1.13
Illinois	\$1,912	1.38
New Hampshire	\$1,893	1.50
South Carolina	\$1,829	1.50
AVERAGE	\$1,739	1.25
Nebraska	\$1,597	1.13
Texas	\$1,523	1.25
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Maine	\$1,349	1.20
MEDIAN	\$1,273	1.22
Colorado	\$1,273	1.18
Virginia	\$1,191	1.14
Oregon	\$1,125	1.25
Michigan	\$1,001	1.12
Louisiana	\$883	1.22
Arkansas	\$855	1.12
Oklahoma	\$848	1.25
Washington	\$750	1.08
Ohio	\$625	1.08
Kentucky	\$615	1.15
Minnesota	\$543	1.08
Hawaii	\$512	1.10
Missouri	\$428	1.07
North Carolina	\$410	1.07
Delaware	\$300	1.05
Mississippi	\$291	1.05
Pennsylvania	\$269	1.52
North Dakota	\$253	1.03
Nevada	\$212	1.03
Utah	\$190	1.05
Montana	\$88	1.01
Arizona	\$86	1.018
Iowa	\$35	1.0048
Alaska		
Florida		
Georgia		
Idaho		
South Dakota		
West Virginia		



APPENDIX

Methodology

If a state provides a specific supplemental amount per low-income student, the equivalent funding weight is calculated by dividing that amount by the base funding. If the state adjusts the weight for concentrated poverty in a district, total additional funding for low-income students in the most recent fiscal year is divided by the total number of low-income students to calculate the average weight. If the state adjusts the base funding per student or uses a resource-based method to calculate base funding for each district, the average base funding per student statewide is calculated from total base funding divided by the total number of students.

The study considers supplemental funding that is part of a state's funding system, which can be a combination of state and local funds that are either required or implied. It does not include federal funds.

The study examines supplemental funding for low-income students, although some states also provide extra funding for other categories of students, like English learners. In some states, additional "at-risk" students are included in the low-income funding policy.

This study considers supplemental funding provided to districts for low-income students on top of normal base funding. It does not reflect that some states use district wealth to differentiate how much base funding they provide to each district. The data for the most recent available fiscal year is used.

Sources and Notes

ExcelinEd started with the EdBuild [database](#) and updated and supplemented it, where needed, with state-specific sources as noted below.

Alabama: The state funds the cost of various inputs, combined into "units." The base was estimated using [total funding](#) divided by the number of units and the average number of students per unit. The state provides supplemental funding for low-income students who are performing at the lowest levels on standardized assessment. The amount of funding per low-income student takes the [total supplemental funding](#) divided by the number of low-income students.

Arizona: The state recently [added](#) a small low-income funding weight.

Arkansas: Funding for low-income students depends on the concentrated poverty of each district. To calculate the funding per low-income student, [total low-income funding](#) was divided by the total number of low-income students.

California: The state provides different base funding per student depending on the grade level. This study uses the [average](#) of these four different base amounts. [Total supplemental funding](#) for low-income students was divided by the [unduplicated count](#) of low-income students.

Colorado: Total funding for low-income students was divided by [total number of low-income students](#).

Connecticut: Districts with low-income percentages above 60 percent receive an additional weight of 1.15 (extra 15 percent) for each student above that threshold. This study used an [interactive tool](#) to determine the number of eligible students because of concentrated poverty and to calculate total extra funding, then divided that total by the total low-income student [count](#).

Delaware: The state funds based on inputs called "units." The study used the total funding for units divided by average number of students per unit to approximate base funding per student. The state recently added funding for low-income students. It is currently \$300 per low-income student and expected to increase.



District of Columbia: The study included [supplemental funding](#) provided for schools if their low-income percentage exceeds [two thresholds](#) for concentrated poverty.

Hawaii: The study used [updated figures](#) from the EdBuild database.

Illinois: The state is phasing in a new funding formula. This study used the [new formula's](#) core investment per student as the base and then added various investments in low-income students. As the state is only funding the new formula in part, the figures are reduced proportionately.

Indiana: The study used [complexity grant](#) totals divided by the number of low-income students.

Kansas: Since the [low-income weight varies](#) based on concentrated poverty, the study used actual funding to determine [funding](#) per low-income student.

Kentucky: The study updated the [base](#) funding.

Maryland: The study excluded funding for high-poverty schools, as the funding is not determined on a per-student basis.

Michigan: Supplemental funding was previously reduced because of lack of enough funding, but the state's recent budget for Fiscal Year 2023 [increased funding](#).

Minnesota: As funds are based on concentrated poverty, the study used the [average amount](#) per low-income student.

Missouri: Supplemental funding is provided above a [threshold percentage](#) of low-income students in a district. The study calculated supplemental funding using the [low-income percentage](#) above the threshold statewide.

Montana: Base funding per student varies, so the study used the [average](#). The study divided the total supplemental funding by the [total number of low-income students](#).

Nebraska: The base differs by district comparison groups, so the study used an [estimated average](#). The total poverty allowance was divided by the [number of low-income students](#).

New Jersey: The low-income funding weight varies based on concentrated poverty, so the study used the medium weight given the [statewide percentage](#) of low-income students and then [verified](#) the amount per student.

New York: The study estimated the [base](#) funding per student.

North Carolina: The state [provides](#) \$410 per Title I eligible student after deducting the minimum funding provided for all districts. Base funding per student was estimated by grouping the various relevant base related "[allotments](#)."

Ohio: Base funding per student varies, so the study used [an average](#). The state is phasing in a new funding formula with increased supplemental funding for low-income students. The study used [actual supplemental funding](#) divided by the total number of low-income students.

Pennsylvania: The state's new formula concerns only additional funding provided to districts beyond what they were previously receiving. The study [used](#) total new funding for low-income students divided by total number of low-income students.

South Carolina: For the state's new funding formula, the study [estimated the base](#) and used [new low-income funding weight](#).



Tennessee: The study used the figures provided in the [overview](#) of its new funding formula to calculate funding totals for low-income students and concentrated poverty.

Texas: The study calculated [total supplemental funding](#) divided by [total number of low-income students](#).

Vermont: The study estimated the [base](#) funding per student.

Virginia: The study added [various supplemental funding programs](#) and divided by the [number of low-income students](#).

Washington: Base funding per student varies, so the study estimated [per-student basic education funding](#). Total supplemental funding was [divided by](#) the number of low-income students.

Wisconsin: For the base, the study combined primary and secondary [cost ceilings](#) per student plus per-pupil categorical of \$742 per student. For [supplemental funding](#), the study added the [high-poverty aid](#).

Wyoming: The state varies its base funding per student, so the study used [an average base](#). For supplemental funding, the study added the [various additional resources](#) for low-income students divided by low-income student count.