



## FundEd: User QuickGuide to Navigating the Database

**FundEd** is a national database of state K-12 school funding policies. Created and maintained by EdBuild and updated by The Education Trust with 2021-2022 policy information, FundEd provides easy access to detailed policy descriptions, enables clear state-to-state comparisons, and offers national snapshots of the policy landscape.

The FundEd website can be accessed at <http://funded.edbuild.org/> and is divided into four sections: Homepage, the National Map, State Summaries, and Reports.

### I. Homepage

The [homepage](#) provides a brief introduction to the tool and allows you to navigate to the other sections of the website. Homepage-specific navigation buttons in the middle of the page take you to the same sections as the tabs in the pinned navigation menu at the top of the screen. The pinned navigation menu also includes a link to an external companion website focused on charter school funding policies. The bottom half of the page offers introductions to the four general categories of policy information provided for each state: **Funding Basics**, **Local Revenue**, **Student Characteristics**, and **District Characteristics**.

Link to charter-specific companion site

Pinned navigation menu

Navigation buttons

Home National State Reports Charters

# FundEd

State Education Funding Policies for all 50 States

Explore the National Map View State Summaries Generate Your Own Report

## INTRODUCTION

FundEd is an interactive web tool that aggregates and standardizes information regarding each state's education funding laws. The intent of this site is to provide easy access to detailed policy descriptions and enable clear state-to-state comparisons. In almost every state, public education is funded based on a formula that calculates how much the state expects each school district to need for the year. FundEd displays information related to the most common elements of state funding formulas on national maps and state pages, organized by the general categories below. Explore the tool using the navigation bar above to see at-a-glance national maps, detailed state comparisons, and downloadable reports.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF FUNDING

<h3>Funding Basics</h3> <p>There are three main types of state funding formulas: Student-based, calculated based on counts of students (generally and with particular characteristics); resource-based, calculated based on the cost of resources and inputs; and program-based, which provide limited-use funding for particular programs. Student-based formulas include a base amount, representing the cost of educating a student with no special needs or disadvantages before further adjustments are made.</p>	<h3>Local Revenue</h3> <p>In almost all states, the funding formula includes an expectation that school districts will raise a certain amount through local taxes, with the state providing the remainder. This expected local contribution may be based on a variety of factors, most often local property wealth. Typically, school districts raise this local share from property taxes, but in some states, school districts may impose other types of taxes as well.</p>	<h3>Student Characteristics</h3> <p>Most state funding formulas take into consideration the costs necessary to educate children with additional needs. State funding formulas most commonly provide additional funding for English-language learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income households. Some states may also provide additional resources for students in certain grade levels, or those in special programs, like gifted education and career and technical education.</p>	<h3>District Characteristics</h3> <p>Some state funding formulas consider the costs associated with the characteristics of the school districts and the communities they serve, apart from the costs associated with individual students. They may provide additional resources based on the concentration of students in a district from low-income households or based on the smallness or rurality of the district. States also vary in how they fund charter schools, if any.</p>
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## II. National Map

Clicking on the “National” tab in the pinned navigation menu at the top of the screen takes you to the [National page](#), which features an interactive map that offers a snapshot view of each policy area included in the database. With color coding, the map categorizes each state’s policy on each topic. Buttons at the top allow you to select a policy area. The legend on the left provides an explanatory note about the selected policy area, and you can click the information button next to any category label on the legend to expand it and view the category definition. Hovering over a category label will highlight the states in that category. Hovering over a state on the map will display a short summary of that state’s policy in the selected policy area. Click on any state to navigate to its state page and view all its policy summaries.

Some policy maps simply display which states do and do not provide funding linked to a given issue (including grade level, English-language learners, gifted, career and technical education, and sparsity and/or small size). Others offer more specific categorizations about the state’s policy approach on a given issue (including formula type, expected local share, property tax floors and ceilings, other local taxes for education, poverty, special education, and charter funding). States striped with multiple colors fall in more than one policy category.

Pinned navigation menu

Buttons to select policy area

Explanation of policy area

Information button to expand category description

The screenshot shows the FundEd: National Policy Maps website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with tabs for Home, National, State, Reports, and Charters. Below the menu is a header with the title "FundEd: National Policy Maps" and a subtitle "A National Overview of State Education Funding Policies". A large image of a state capitol dome is in the background. Below the header, there is a row of buttons for selecting a policy area: Formula Type, Local Share, Prop. Tax Bounds, Local Taxes, Grade, ELL, Poverty, Special Ed, Gifted, CTE, Sparsity, and Charter Funding. A legend on the left side of the page provides an explanation of the selected policy area, "Formula Type". The legend includes a title "Formula Type", a description of the formula, and a list of categories: Student-Based (40), Resource-Based (18), Program-Based (4), and No Formula (2). Each category has an information icon. The map of the United States is color-coded according to the legend, with states colored in blue, red, yellow, and striped patterns. Annotations with arrows point to the navigation menu, the buttons, the legend, and the map.

Click any of the issue buttons below to see a map of all fifty states' funding policies regarding that issue area. The legend on the left describes the issue area and lists the policy options; click the information icon ⓘ next to each color-coded option for more information about the meaning of that option.

Hover over any state to see a short summary of its policies. Click on any state to be taken to that state's education funding policy summary page.

LEGEND

**Formula Type**  
States usually distribute education funding through a formula that determines the dollar amount to which each school district is entitled. These formulas base their calculations of how much funding should be required for each district on different factors; usually, the formulas can be characterized as primarily student-based or primarily resource-based, though in some instances, they are program-based. In the map, a striped state is one that uses a hybrid formula based on two kinds of factors.

Student-Based (40) ⓘ  
Resource-Based (18) ⓘ

The formula determines the cost of delivering education in a district based on the cost of the resources, such as staff salaries and course materials, required to do so. The state may separately account for the additional cost of educating specific categories of students by distributing flat, per-student dollar amounts and/or through program-specific allocations.

Program-Based (4) ⓘ  
No Formula (2) ⓘ

Formula Type Local Share Prop. Tax Bounds Local Taxes Grade ELL Poverty Special Ed Gifted CTE Sparsity Charter Funding

Hover over a state to view its short summary. Click a state to navigate to its state page.

### III. State Summaries

Clicking on the “State” tab in the pinned navigation menu at the top of the screen takes you to a page on which you can [select any state](#) to view a state page summarizing its policies in all areas. (Clicking on any state on the national map will bring you directly to its state page.) By default, the state page displays a single-paragraph summary for each policy area. To the right of each summary is an arrow that you can click to expand the summary to view more detail, if applicable, up to three paragraphs. A citation button (displaying quotation marks) can be clicked to view the sources for the information in the summary. To the left of the state name above the summaries, whole-page citation and expand buttons allow you to view all citations and fully expand all summaries with one click. To the right of the state name, click the plus sign to select another state for comparison and view its summaries next to the ones already displayed. (The state page can display summaries for up to five states at a time.)

The state page also includes shortcuts to related reports and national maps. Next to the state name, click the PDF icon to navigate to a PDF report with all the state’s summaries. Next to the name of each policy area on the left side of the page, click the PDF icon to navigate to a PDF report with all states’ policy summaries for that policy area, or click the map icon to navigate to the national map for that policy area.

The screenshot shows the 'FundEd: State Policy Analysis' website for Arizona. The page features a navigation menu at the top with tabs for Home, National, State (selected), Reports, and Charters. Below the navigation is a header with the title 'FundEd: State Policy Analysis' and a subtitle 'A Detailed Look at Each State's Funding Policies'. A text block below the header explains that users can click 'Expand' to see more detail and 'Citation' to see sources. The main content area is titled 'Arizona' and lists several policy areas: Funding Basics, Base Amount, Local Revenue, and Student Characteristics. Each policy area has a summary paragraph, a citation button (quotation marks), and an expand button (downward arrow). Annotations with yellow arrows point to various UI elements: the 'State' tab in the navigation menu; the 'Expand' and 'Citation' buttons for the 'Overview' section; the 'Expand' button for the 'Base Amount' section; the 'Citation' button for the 'Base Amount' section; the 'Expand' button for the 'Expected Local Share' section; the 'Citation' button for the 'Expected Local Share' section; the 'Expand' button for the 'Property Tax Floors and Ceilings' section; the 'Citation' button for the 'Property Tax Floors and Ceilings' section; the 'Expand' button for the 'Grade Level' section; the 'Citation' button for the 'Grade Level' section; the plus sign button to the right of the state name; and the PDF icon next to the 'Base Amount' section.

Pinned navigation menu

Click to expand citations and/or summaries for all sections

Click PDF icon to access a report on all states' policies in this area

Click map icon to view the national map for this policy area

Click button to display citations for this section

Click arrow to expand summary for this section

Click to add additional states for comparison

## IV. Reports

Clicking on the “Reports” tab in the pinned navigation menu at the top of the screen takes you to [a reports page](#) with four kinds of report options: State Reports, State Comparison Reports, Issue Reports, and Custom Reports.

State Reports include summaries for a single state in all policy areas. State Comparison Reports present all summaries for two states that you select. Issue Reports include summaries for all states in a single policy area. For any of these automatically generated, “standard” reports, you can choose whether the policy summaries included are one paragraph apiece, or the longer two- or three-paragraph versions (“summary,” “intermediate,” or “in-depth”). All of these reports are generated as PDF documents.

Custom reports can include any combination of states and issues, and can also include policy summaries that are one, two, or three paragraphs in length. Custom reports can include or exclude citations. These reports are generated in spreadsheet format (.xls or .csv).

The screenshot shows the FundEd: Reports page. At the top, a navigation menu includes Home, National, State, Reports (highlighted), and Charters. The main heading is "FundEd: Reports" with the subtitle "Download Standard and Custom Reports". Below this, there is a map background and a section titled "Standard Reports" with three options: State Report, Issue Report, and State Comparison Report. Each option has a dropdown menu to select a state or issue and a "Download" button. The "Level of Detail" is set to "In-Depth". Below the "Standard Reports" section is the "Custom Reports" section, which includes a "Build Your Own Report" form with dropdowns for "Select States...", "Select Issues...", "Select Level of Detail...", and "Select Format...". Below this form is a "Custom Report Selections" box showing "States: none selected", "Issues: none selected", "Level of Detail: none selected", and "Format: none selected". A "Download" button and a checkbox for "include citations" are at the bottom of the Custom Reports section. Annotations with arrows point to various elements: "Pinned navigation menu" points to the Reports tab; "Choose how detailed policy summaries should be" points to the Level of Detail radio buttons; "Select state(s) or issue of interest and download PDF report" points to the dropdown menus and Download buttons in the Standard Reports section; and "Select state(s) and issues of interest, choose how detailed policy summaries should be, select spreadsheet file format, and download custom report, with or without citations" points to the Custom Reports section.

Pinned navigation menu

Choose how detailed policy summaries should be

Select state(s) or issue of interest and download PDF report

Select state(s) and issues of interest, choose how detailed policy summaries should be, select spreadsheet file format, and download custom report, with or without citations