

# QUALITY COUNTS 2019: FINANCE

## Grading the States

# School Finance

GRADE	EQUITY					SPENDING				STATE
	Wealth-Neutrality Score (2016) <sup>1</sup>	McLoone Index (2016) <sup>1</sup>	Coefficient of Variation (2016) <sup>1</sup>	Restricted Range (2016) <sup>1</sup>	Per-pupil expenditures (PPE), adjusted for regional cost differences (2016)	Percent of students in districts with PPE at or above U.S. average (2016) <sup>1</sup>	Spending Index (2016) <sup>1</sup>	Percent of total taxable resources spent on education (2016)		
	Relationship between district funding and local property wealth (negative value indicates higher funding for poorer districts)	Actual spending as a percent of amount needed to bring all students to median level	Amount of disparity in spending across districts (lower value indicates greater equity)	Difference in per-pupil spending levels at 95th and 5th percentiles			Per-pupil spending levels weighted by the degree to which districts meet or approach the national average for expenditures (cost and student need adjusted)			
A	92.8	0.011	92.1%	0.138	\$4,550	\$18,090	100.0%	100.0	5.1%	WYOMING
A-	90.2	0.082	91.2	0.124	7,905	19,697	100.0	100.0	4.2	NEW YORK
B+	89.3	0.061	90.9	0.164	7,698	16,543	100.0	100.0	4.8	NEW JERSEY
B+	88.3	0.080	88.1	0.142	8,262	17,798	100.0	100.0	4.2	CONNECTICUT
B+	87.1	0.128	90.0	0.117	5,181	15,320	100.0	100.0	3.8	RHODE ISLAND
B+	86.5	0.125	93.1	0.093	2,984	13,146	100.0	100.0	3.6	MARYLAND
B	86.3	0.000	81.3	0.239	13,742	20,540	76.3	96.5	5.4	VERMONT
B	86.0	0.146	91.4	0.159	6,580	16,122	96.8	99.7	3.8	PENNSYLVANIA
B	84.0	0.178	87.6	0.177	6,809	16,006	81.1	97.5	4.3	MAINE
B	83.5	0.049	92.5	0.150	3,668	14,381	85.5	99.0	3.0	NORTH DAKOTA
B	83.4	0.156	90.6	0.177	7,528	14,529	99.7	100.0	3.3	MASSACHUSETTS
B-	82.1	-0.272	83.3	0.466	20,429	17,872	96.7	99.2	4.3	ALASKA
B-	81.3	0.152	79.3	0.213	8,719	16,347	81.1	98.7	3.7	NEW HAMPSHIRE
B-	80.5	0.399	89.1	0.115	4,681	15,009	90.9	99.5	2.6	DELAWARE
B-	80.2	0.233	89.9	0.168	9,145	13,829	80.1	98.2	3.7	ILLINOIS
C+	77.6	0.091	91.8	0.133	4,680	13,068	45.3	95.0	3.4	MINNESOTA
C+	76.8	0.096	93.3	0.106	2,990	12,558	33.5	95.3	3.4	WISCONSIN
C+	76.7	0.126	94.3	0.112	3,628	12,915	23.8	91.1	4.2	WEST VIRGINIA
C	75.4	0.084	92.3	0.138	3,183	11,125	41.9	95.0	2.9	WASHINGTON
C	74.9	0.145	92.1	0.197	5,468	14,385	32.6	94.0	3.3	NEBRASKA
C	74.7	0.191	89.3	0.134	4,666	10,530	49.8	94.6	3.0	VIRGINIA
C	74.2	0.102	89.6	0.207	6,761	13,051	37.1	92.1	3.4	OHIO
C	74.0	0.128	92.9	0.098	2,685	13,241	13.3	90.7	3.3	IOWA
C	73.9	0.043	88.0	0.152	3,873	10,281	37.4	92.5	3.0	CALIFORNIA
C	73.0	0.166	92.9	0.133	3,680	13,016	15.7	88.4	3.5	MICHIGAN
C-	72.5	0.117	91.7	0.121	3,110	11,905	18.7	89.8	3.0	OREGON
C-	72.2	0.161	91.2	0.271	5,122	14,229	26.5	88.9	3.4	MONTANA
C-	72.0	0.058	89.0	0.146	3,711	11,753	10.2	84.7	3.6	KANSAS
C-	71.9	0.160	92.4	0.154	3,854	11,951	12.5	82.3	4.0	ARKANSAS
C-	71.9	0.351	90.4	0.131	3,914	12,362	29.0	91.9	3.1	LOUISIANA
C-	71.7	0.199	89.3	0.147	4,938	11,564	14.8	86.6	3.9	SOUTH CAROLINA
C-	70.9	0.111	92.3	0.097	2,448	11,210	0.5	83.2	3.5	KENTUCKY
C-	70.7	0.065	91.3	0.131	3,505	11,626	5.9	81.2	3.3	INDIANA
C-	70.5	0.191	92.5	0.137	3,470	11,756	11.1	84.0	3.3	MISSOURI
D+	69.4	0.100	93.8	0.190	3,738	10,754	8.1	79.9	3.5	NEW MEXICO
D+	69.1	0.209	93.1	0.096	2,566	10,386	3.3	81.9	3.3	ALABAMA
D+	68.9	0.194	92.4	0.135	4,396	10,114	9.1	84.3	3.3	GEORGIA
D+	68.8	0.146	90.3	0.122	2,792	10,240	2.3	73.1	3.7	MISSISSIPPI
D+	68.0	0.125	96.2	0.063	1,647	9,764	0.1	76.0	2.7	FLORIDA
D+	67.3	0.205	91.2	0.136	2,908	10,053	2.9	83.2	2.9	COLORADO
D+	67.3	0.122	92.7	0.162	3,776	8,619	5.6	78.8	3.3	TEXAS
D+	67.1	0.136	92.7	0.187	3,740	11,430	8.9	77.6	2.6	SOUTH DAKOTA
D+	66.9	0.110	94.5	0.098	2,447	9,694	0.8	75.6	2.5	TENNESSEE
D	65.9	0.061	90.8	0.165	2,945	9,250	2.0	67.9	3.0	OKLAHOMA
D	65.3	0.157	93.4	0.112	2,937	9,367	1.8	75.3	2.3	NORTH CAROLINA
D	62.6	0.221	96.1	0.175	2,694	7,635	2.1	60.9	2.9	UTAH
D-	62.4	0.102	91.3	0.212	3,193	8,335	2.6	64.5	2.4	ARIZONA
D-	61.8	0.135	NA <sup>2</sup>	0.148	2,771	9,185	3.1	77.2	2.8	NEVADA
D-	60.6	0.345	89.4	0.247	3,527	8,677	2.7	62.4	3.0	IDAHO
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	15,052	100.0	100.0	NA <sup>4</sup>	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA <sup>3</sup>
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14,254	100.0	100.0	3.3	HAWAII <sup>3</sup>
<b>C</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>0.132</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>0.156</b>	<b>\$4,891</b>	<b>\$12,756</b>	<b>40.1%</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>U.S.<sup>5</sup></b>

Note: States are ranked based on unrounded scores.

<sup>1</sup> Figures in this column are adjusted to reflect regional cost differences and weighted for student needs.

<sup>2</sup> The Clark County school district enrolls the majority of students in Nevada, making its per-pupil spending the statewide median. In addition, Clark County is Nevada's lowest-spending district. Because of these two factors, a value for the McLoone Index comparable to other states' cannot be calculated. Nevada's grade is based on all other available indicators.

<sup>3</sup> The District of Columbia and Hawaii are single-district jurisdictions. As a result, it is not possible to calculate measures of financial equity, which capture the distribution of funding across districts within a state. The District of Columbia and Hawaii do not receive grades for school finance.

<sup>4</sup> The District of Columbia does not have a state-level revenue source.

<sup>5</sup> The U.S. row reports the indicator value for the average state.

SOURCE: Education Week Research Center, 2019