

Ensuring Fair School Funding

A [fair school funding system](#) underlies every effort to better support students, yet many students are left without the resources they need. EdTrust's research has shown that districts serving the most students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, and English learners receive substantially less money than schools that serve more white students, children from wealthier families, and fewer English learners.

As the federal government increasingly abdicates its role in protecting civil rights and ensuring equity, it will be more important than ever that states' funding systems are structured in ways that ensure equitable access to opportunity for all students.

EdTrust believes state leaders should:

1. Fund schools adequately

- States must provide enough funding for school districts to provide enriching learning environments for all students.

2. Fund schools equitably to meet student needs

- Students who need more support — like students from low-income backgrounds, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and students from rural communities — should get more.

3. Make local school funding fairer

- Local funds generated by property taxes vary widely between districts, depending on property values. States can adjust state aid based on local property tax wealth, broaden district tax bases by redrawing district boundaries, or consider other measures to ensure every district has the resources it needs to effectively educate students.

4. Fund schools transparently

- State leaders should clearly explain how their funding formula is designed to work and ensure that districts use funding to improve student outcomes. The public should be able to easily access real-time data on school funding.

5. Keep public funds in public schools

- States should reject vouchers and other programs that send public funds to private schools drain funding from public schools, threatening the survival and sustainability of the public education system. These programs deepen educational inequities as students with the highest needs are often denied admission to private schools.