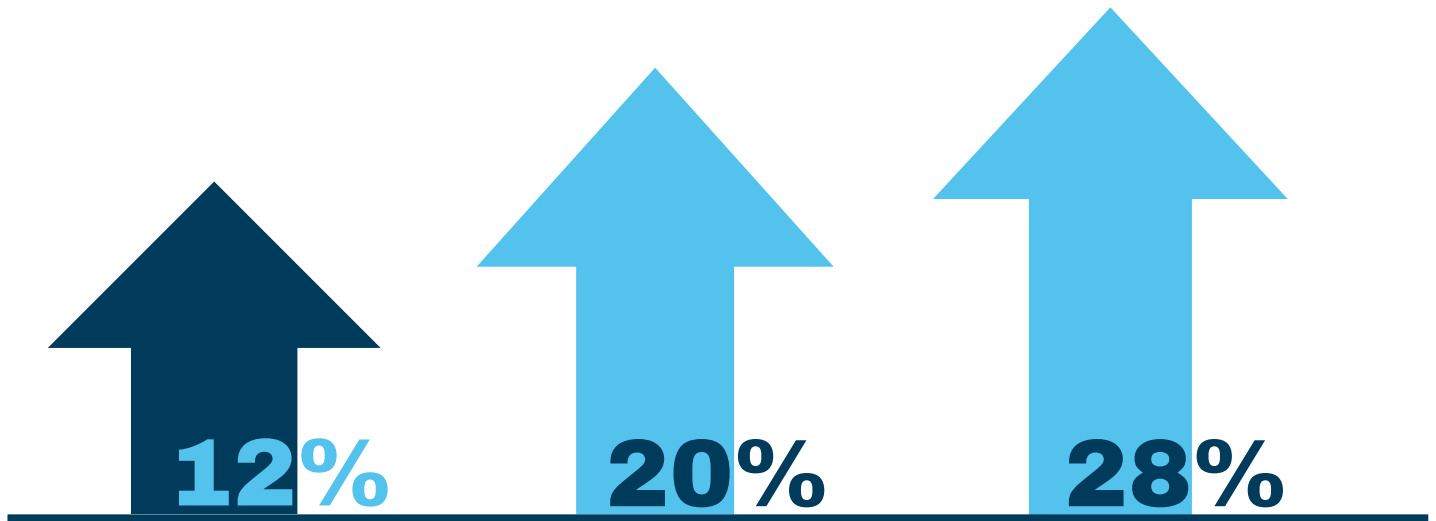


Missouri Education Funding

Proposed State Funding Increases:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education hopes to increase Missouri's public education budget starting next school year. DESE currently spends \$13,154 per pupil, on average. However, the majority of education costs in Missouri are covered by local and county governments. In 2019, state funding only covered 31% of education's costs on average, compared to 58% local and 8% federal support.



Under this proposal, Missouri's baseline spending per student (also called the "State Adequacy Target") would increase by 12%.

Since Missouri last increased its baseline education spending per student, inflation has increased the price of goods by 20%.

Based on most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, in order to meet the national average Missouri would need to increase state education spending by 28%.

How was the proposed increase calculated?

Missouri's school funding formula roughly models spending statewide after spending in the state's highest-performing districts. Recent changes to how the state defines 'highest-performing' made this designation more specific - now, 40 instead of 300+ districts meet this criteria. Additional funding would also support programs addressing teacher retention, literacy, math instruction, and early childhood special education.

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How does Missouri calculate how much funding it allocates to each district?

The state gives districts funds based on their average daily attendance. Furthermore, if districts pass a threshold attendance count of high-needs students, they receive additional funds for each attending high-needs student (defined as those who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, have Individualized Education Plans, or have Limited English Proficiency).

“It is well understood that average daily attendance rates tend to be lower (relative to enrolled, eligible pupils) in districts that are higher in child poverty and in minority concentrations. As such, when state aid is calculated based on Average Daily Attendance, that aid is systematically reduced in higher poverty, higher minority concentration districts.”

- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

How could state funding changes address education inequity?

Instead of only offering increased funding for high-needs students when a district has a higher than average daily attendance of these students, the state could offer extra funding for every high-needs student.

To address the systematic inequity associated with linking funding to daily attendance, funding could instead be linked to a district's enrollment.

According to University of Miami researcher Bruce Baker, the current funding increases Missouri districts receive for high-needs students are “not based on any empirical analysis” and should be much higher.

