

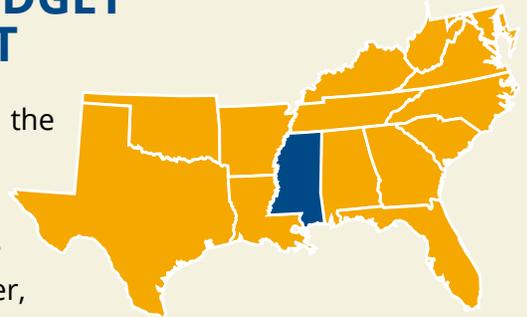


Mississippi

STATE BUDGET ANALYSIS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EDUCATION BUDGET PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT

2019 marked the start of Governor Phil Bryant's 7th year holding the state's top elected office. Governor Bryant makes a budget request for the Department of Education, along with all other state agencies, to ensure the 47,000 students in Mississippi's school system have the highest quality academic experience. The state of Mississippi, however, earned a "C" on its latest annual report card, yet Governor Bryant's budget fails to recommend researched-based student achievement policies such as increased funding for the K-12 funding formula, integrated personalized learning, or fully sourced community schools. Mississippi, like many other southern states, need education investments that work for students to be successful. 60 percent of the state's students do not meet grade level standards in English and Math and the average Mississippi ACT score is 17.8, while most colleges across the country require at least a 21 to be admitted. State policies should support nothing short of college and career-ready outcomes.



MISSISSIPPI'S EDUCATION BUDGET PRIORITIES

| Core Mississippi Education Programs | FY 2020 Proposed Budget | FY 2019 | FY 2018 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Pre-K | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| State K-12 Funding Formula | \$2,204,000,000 | \$2,204,000,000 | \$2,201,000,000 |
| Teacher Pay Raises | \$25,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Higher Education | \$829,000,000 | \$825,000,000 | \$823,000,000 |

1. Governor Bryant's budget does not show any state investments for early childhood education.
2. The education programs listed in the chart were selected based on the priorities of the Southern Education Foundation. We believe these programs are most closely associated with student success or the most significant impediments in the education system.
3. The budget summary and chart figures may differ slightly due to rounding.
4. The state education program charts may differ from state to state due to different budget development processes and a respective governor's education priorities.



AREAS OF PROMISE

Governor Bryant Proposed:

- A \$25 million increase for teacher pay raises.
- A 0.5% increase for higher education institutions.



\$25 Million ↑
INCREASE FOR TEACHER PAY RAISES



0.5% ↑
INCREASE FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

AREAS OF CONCERN

Governor Bryant:

- Fails to provide any substantive changes or increases to the state's K-12 funding formula.
- Does not show state funds allocated for early childhood education in his budget.
- Does not recommend community schools or wraparound services for low-income populations who desperately need additional supports outside of the classroom.
- Though not expressed in his budget, Governor Bryant supports school choice despite the lack of evidence suggesting that they yield better outcomes than traditional schools. He also supports school vouchers and education savings accounts where public funds are used to support private schools.



**NO SUBSTANTIVE
INCREASES TO
K-12 FUNDING
FORMULA**



**NO COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS OR
WRAPAROUND
SERVICES FOR
LOW INCOME
POPULATIONS**



**SUPPORTS
SCHOOL CHOICE
AND VOUCHERS
TO PRIVATE
SCHOOLS**

EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governor and the Mississippi state legislature should: (1) Use state funds to invest in effective and affordable early childhood education; (2) Revamp the K-12 funding formula to meet the needs of every child, especially those who are low-income and come from historically disenfranchised communities; (3) Invest in Community Schools and wraparound services for low-income students; (4) Increase pay for highly effective teachers and principals; (5) Defund or rescind authorization for all programs that allow public funds to be used in private schools.