

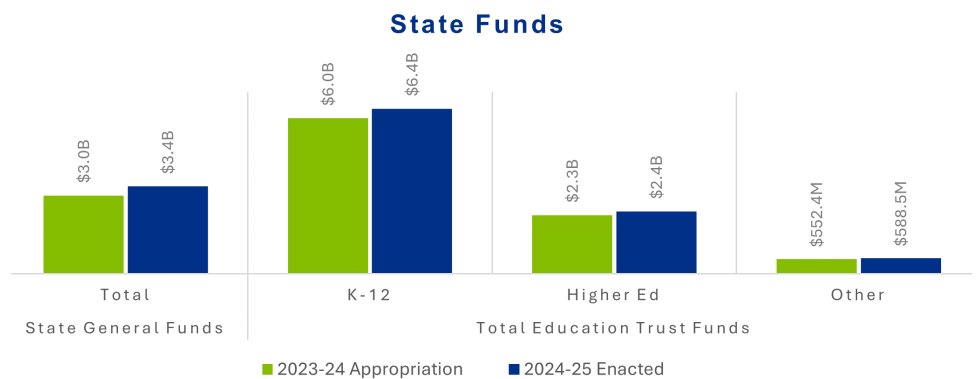
SREB

Legislative Report

Final legislative and budget actions

Alabama (<http://www.legislature.state.al.us/>)

For the 2024-25 fiscal year Alabama General Assembly approved a nearly \$3.4 billion general fund budget to support state government functions other than education, up 11.5% from the previous year and a \$9.3 billion Education Trust Fund budget which supports education as well as some non-education state function, up 6.3% from the prior year. The budget includes a 2% pay raise for state employees including education employees and funding increases for many education programs, including Reading Initiative and Principal Leadership and Mentorship. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$6.4 billion, up 6.2% and higher education totals \$2.4 billion, up 6.2%.



Alabama Public K-12 Education

- \$200.8 million for the department of early childhood education (up 3.2%) including:
 - \$4.1 million for Strong Start, Strong Finish, up 3.1%
 - \$185.4 million for the office of school readiness, up 2.1%

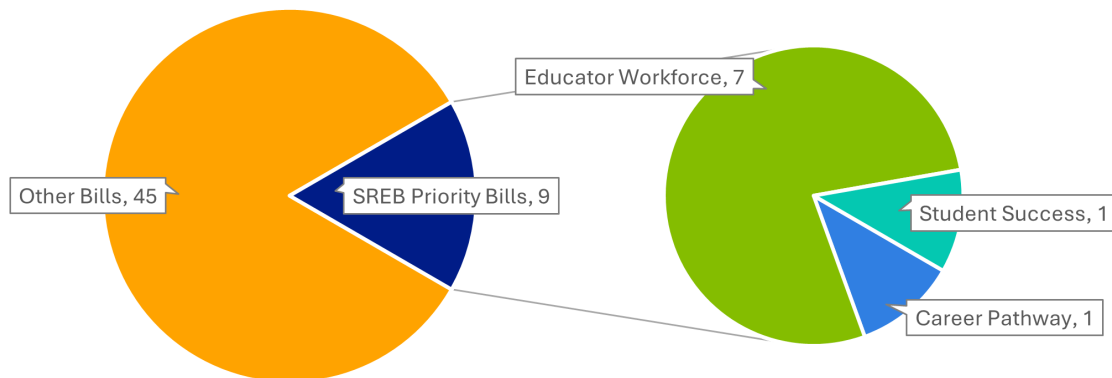
- \$5.3 billion for K-12 local board (up 3.6%) including:
 - \$4.6 billion for K-12 Foundation Program, up 3%
 - \$7.9 million for special education teacher stipend, up 70.3%
- \$707.8 million for the Alabama Department of Education (up 32.4%) including:
 - \$105.4 million for Reading Initiative, up 83.6%
 - \$30.9 million for Principal Leadership and Mentoring Act, up 3529.4%
 - \$5 million for Alabama Teacher Mentor Program, up 25%
 - \$68 million for Alabama Numeracy Act, up 70%

Alabama Higher Education

- Nearly \$1.7 billion for state-funded colleges and universities, up 2.4%
- \$71.3 million for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, up 10%
- \$586.9 million for the community college system, up 6.5% including \$40.5 million for dual enrollment (up 32.8%)

Alabama Legislative Highlight

Alabama Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Alabama Major Education Bills

House Bill 129 creates the Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act of 2024 or the CHOOSE Act. The Act directs the department of revenue to establish education savings accounts for the parent of an approved participating student to offset the costs of qualifying educational expenses such as tuition and fees, textbooks, after- and summer school fees, tutoring, etc. The ESAs are funded through the proceeds of a new, refundable income tax credit made available to certain parents of eligible students and will first be available for the 2025-26 academic year.

House Bill 146 revises the state minimum salary schedule to reflect a pay increase of 2% beginning with the fiscal year 2024-25. Each employee of certain boards of education and support employees will receive a pay increase according to placement on the appropriate salary step. The bill also provides a 2% across-the-board salary raise for all two-year postsecondary salary schedules. In addition, the bill increases the obligations of local boards of education for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 and each year thereafter, depending on the extent to which employees are funded by federal or local funds and whether pay raises are provided on salary supplements.

Senate Bill 253 establishes the State Workforce Pathways Act to provide enhanced academic and skilled trades opportunities for students, and to facilitate the development of a career pathways diploma at the K-12 level that would enhance career and technical education opportunities for high school students who plan to enter the workforce immediately after graduation. The bill also requires the state board of education to establish a new K-12 program — the Alabama Workforce Pathways diploma pathway and allows students in the program to complete only two math and two science credits for graduation, instead of four. The students are also allowed to earn credits by taking career and technical education courses that might prepare them for employment right after high school. Subject to funding, the bill provides for refurbishing and constructing new career and technical education centers for K-12 students and scholarships for training through the Alabama Short-Term Credential Program.

House Joint Resolution 215 requires the Legislature to conduct a study on modernizing the current K-12 school funding model into a student-based funding model. The study must include any additional costs associated with the transition, as well as any necessary changes in the law that may be required to implement a new statutory framework that supports meaningful education to K-12 students. The bill requires the Legislature to deliver the findings of its study and any proposed legislation to the governor, the leaders of the House and the Senate by February 1, 2025.

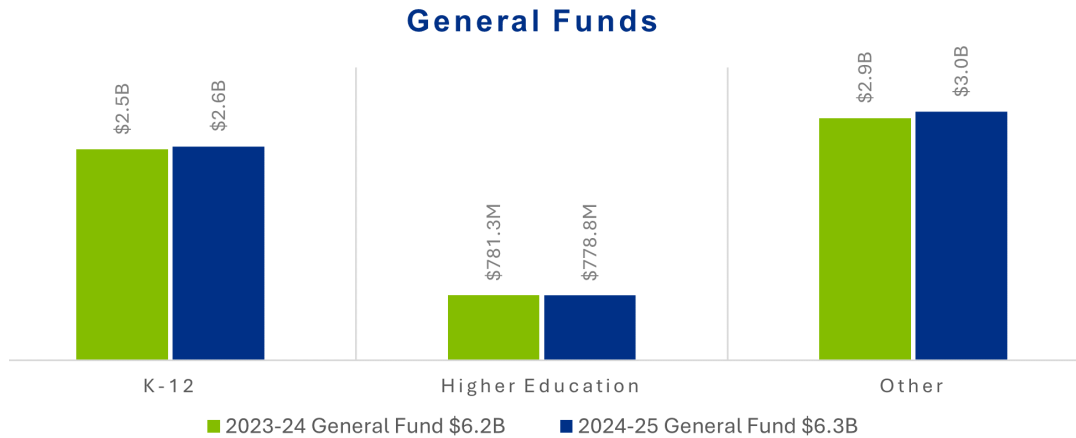
Senate Bill 98 creates the School Security Program to require periodic inspections of public K-12 schools. The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules to administer and implement the program and grade local boards of education based on compliance with school security criteria. Additionally, the bill creates the School Security and Fire Safety Fund to provide grants for qualifying local boards of education to seek compliance with school security criteria and recommendations of the state fire marshal related to fire safety.

House Bill 308 relates to alternative teacher certification. Under existing law, an alternative teacher education preparation organization that does not meet certain criteria may be approved by the state board of education if it is certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. The bill allows that an alternative teacher education preparation organization may also be approved if it is accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education which specializes in educator preparation. The bill also makes nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to the current style.

Of the education bills Alabama passed during the 2024-25 session, nine bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (7), student success (1) and career pathways (1).

Arkansas [\(http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/\)](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/)

Arkansas General Assembly adjourned its fiscal session which primarily deals with state budget matters in May with the passage of the Revenue Stabilization Act. RSA sets the financial priorities of the state for the upcoming fiscal year based on expected revenue. In June, legislators convened in a three-day special session where none of the agenda discussed was related to education. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the general fund budget totals \$6.3 billion which is 1.8% over the prior fiscal year. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$2.6 billion, up 1.5% and higher education totals \$778.8 million, down 0.3%.



Arkansas Public K-12 Education

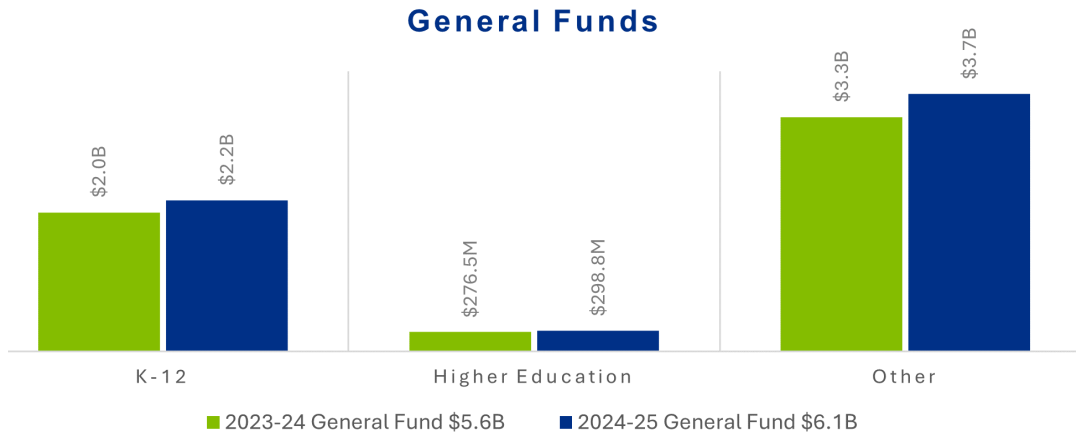
- \$2.4 billion for the division of elementary and secondary education, up 1.4%
- \$26.9 million for career and technical education, up 17.9%

Arkansas Higher Education

- \$628.7 million for four-year institutes, down 0.3%
- \$117.1 million for two-year institutes, down 0.7%
- \$33.1 million for technical colleges, up 0.7%

Delaware (<http://legis.delaware.gov/>)

Delaware General Assembly approved a nearly \$6.1 billion budget for 2024-25, up 9.3% over the 2023-24 budget. The legislators also passed a \$168 million one-time supplemental appropriation to fund cost-of-living increases up to 2% for most of the pensioners of the state, depending on their retirement date. Funding for K-12 public education totals nearly \$2.2 billion, up 8.6% and higher education totals \$298.8 million, up 8.1%.



Delaware K-12 Education

- \$63 million for Opportunity Fund, up 18.9%
- \$59.3 million for mental health services, up 41.2%
- \$15.8 million for early childhood assistance, up 28.8%
- \$2.4 million for substitute reimbursement, up 54.1%
- \$3 million for early literacy coaches

Delaware Scholarships and Grants

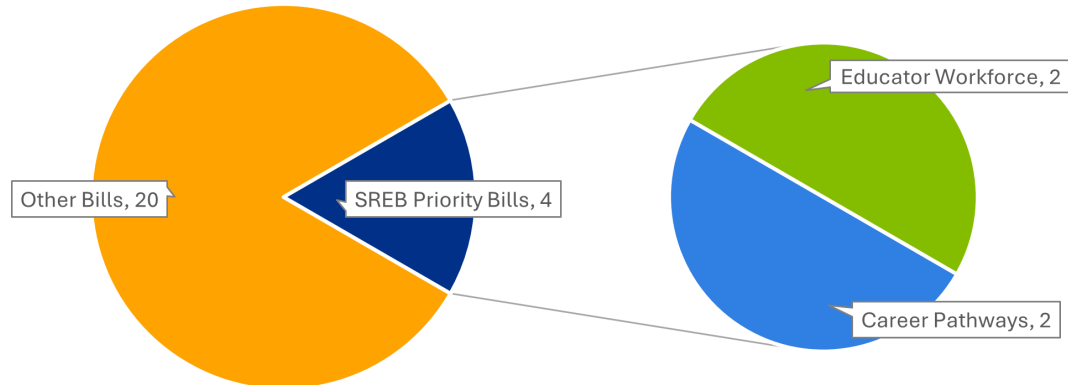
- \$17.5 million for Student Excellence Equals Degree scholarship, up 23.8%
- \$10.7 million for Inspire, up 25%

Delaware Higher Education

- \$146.3 million for the University of Delaware, up 6.6%
- \$52 million for Delaware State University, up 16.4%
- \$100.5 million for Delaware Technical Community College, up 6.7%

Delaware Legislative Highlight

Delaware Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Delaware Major Education Bills

Senate Bill 252 requires the state department of education to perform audits of educator preparation programs to assess compliance with the evidence-based reading instruction requirements, known as the science of reading. If a program fails to meet the requirements, the department must ensure that the program takes corrective action for each area of non-compliance. If a program meets all of the science of reading requirements, the department will award the program a specific distinction. This bill also requires that the department use these audits to identify how teacher preparation in reading instruction can be improved.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 201 establishes the Public Education Funding Commission to continue the comprehensive review of public education funding for all students and populations served by district and charter schools, develop a roadmap of recommendations to implement improvements to the public education funding system, and serve as an ongoing body to review the funding annually and recommend updates and changes.

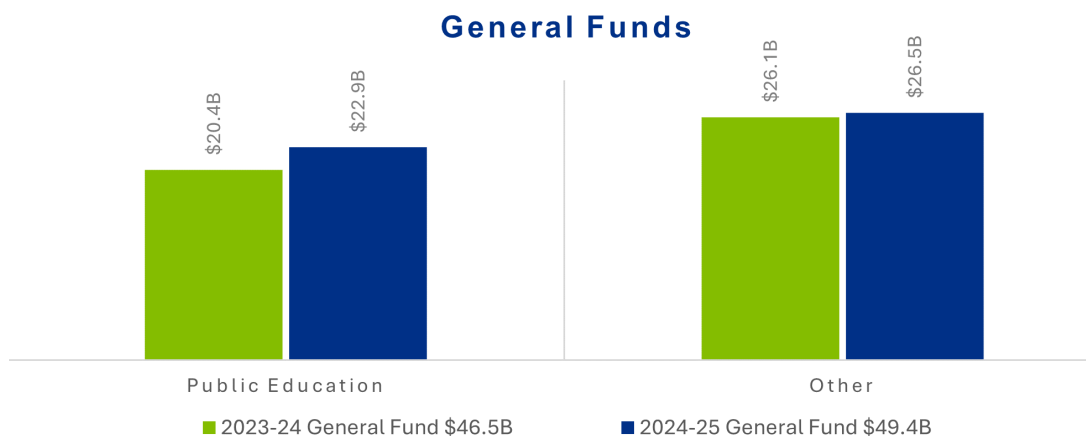
Senate Bill 187 ensures that educators hired after the effective date of this act, who earned graduate degrees prior to becoming educators, receive credit on the salary schedule for those degrees regardless of the specific subject area of those degrees. Once an individual is employed as an educator, in order to receive credit for any graduate degrees earned after that time, such degree must be in the subject area in which the educator is employed.

House Bill 116 requires public institutions of higher learning to grant credit for advanced placement examination scores of 3 or higher. The bill allows an institution of higher education to require a score higher than 3 if the credit is to be used for meeting a course requirement for a particular major or program, provided that the student can receive course credit for that examination in an area outside of the student's major or program area.

Of the education bills Delaware passed during the 2024-25 session, four bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (2) and career pathways (2).

Florida [\(http://focusonfloridasfuture.com/\)](http://focusonfloridasfuture.com/)

Florida General Assembly approved a nearly \$49.4 billion budget for 2024-25, up 6.2% over the 2023-24 budget. General revenue funding for all levels of public education totals \$22.9 billion, up 11.9% including \$15.4 billion for K-12 education (up 11.7%) and \$5.7 billion for state colleges and universities (up 11.6%). The budget provides \$201.6 million to provide salary increases for full-time classroom teachers, certified pre-K teachers and other instructional personnel.



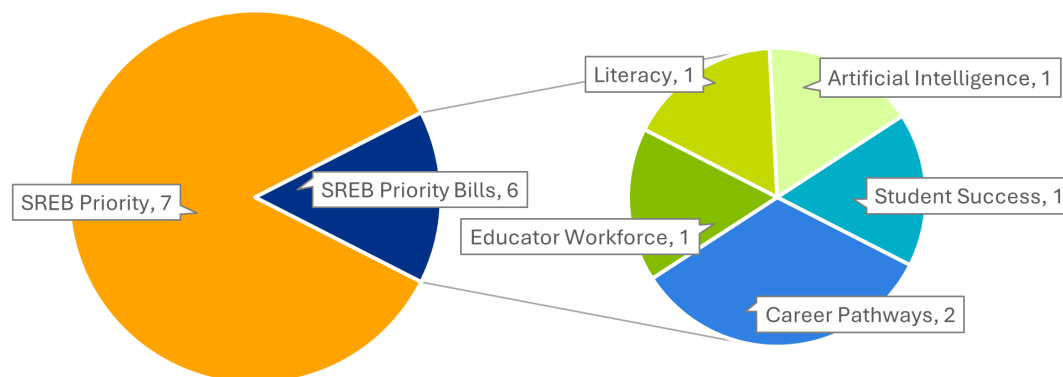
Florida Education Enhancement Lottery Funds

- Total lottery funding declined 20.7% to \$2.5 billion
- K-12 grants declined 49.5% to \$609.1 million including \$505.3 million for Florida Education Finance Program funding (down 54.2%)
- Student financial aid funding up 2.8% to \$728.1 million

Florida Public Education General Funds

- \$15.4 billion for K-12 education, up 11.7% including \$11.7 billion for FEFP (up 14.3%)
- \$608.9 million for early learning education, up 4% including \$438.1 million for voluntary Pre-K (up 2.6%)
- \$4.3 billion for state universities, up 15.8%
- \$1.5 billion for state colleges, up 1.1%

Florida Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Florida Major Education Bills

During the 2024 legislative session, Florida Legislature passed three education bills aiming at deregulation of the state's public school systems. One of the deregulation bills, **Senate Bill 7000** provides school districts with additional authority related to teacher certification and training, instructor contracts and salary schedules, personnel evaluations and collective bargaining. The bill modifies school personnel's initial and continuing requirements and also modifies how school districts may recruit, hire, manage, pay, and evaluate teachers.

Another deregulation bill, **Senate Bill 7002** removes unnecessary and burdensome regulations on school districts to advance efficient administrative processes, enhance facilities management, and simplify financial requirements. The bill simplifies rulemaking and policy development processes, allows school boards to post meeting postings on their websites, authorizes alternate notifications to parents regarding suspensions and dropout prevention, grants flexibility for making up lost days, removes surplus property obligations for charter schools and simplifies financial requirements to enhance facilities management.

The last one, **Senate Bill 7004** provides school districts additional authority related to prekindergarten programs, retention and graduation, assessments, school improvement, instructional materials and district programs. The bill also repeals reporting relating to fine arts, charter technical career centers, middle grades career courses, academically high performing school districts, committee of practitioners under the No Child Left Behind Act, and implementation of school improvement and accountability.

House Bill 917 requires the department of education to convene a workgroup to identify best practices in career and technical education pathways from middle school to high school and to identify three math pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by December 1, 2024. The bill also expands the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to include coordinating with other state entities to publish and disseminate a statewide CTE education asset map informing workforce and industry partners of opportunities to partner and expand CTE in the state.

House Bill 1361 expands the eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship to include students enrolled in a voluntary prekindergarten program, who exhibit substantial deficiencies in early literacy or mathematics skills. The bill requires that school districts and VPK program providers notify parents of eligible students about the procedure for requesting and obtaining a scholarship when sharing the results of each progress monitoring assessment.

The bill also establishes the New Worlds Tutoring Program to support school districts in improving kindergarten through 5th-grade student achievement in reading and mathematics. In addition, the bill allows providing grants to school districts to award stipends for in-person tutoring during, before and after the school day, or during a summer program. To expand the use of artificial intelligence the bill allows the center that administers the program to collaborate with school districts and award grants to eligible school districts. These funds are allowed for subscription fees and professional learning to support and accelerate learning for students in grades 6 through 12. The bill appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds from the general revenue funds for the grant program.

Senate Bill 46 allows school districts participating in the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence tutoring program to offer after-school tutoring sessions. The bill authorizes the districts to provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students who serve as tutors during these after-school sessions. The bill also allows that the unpaid hours that a high school student devotes to tutoring may be counted toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and community service requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Senate Bill 1688 creates the Florida Career and Professional Education Act to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy. The bill requires:

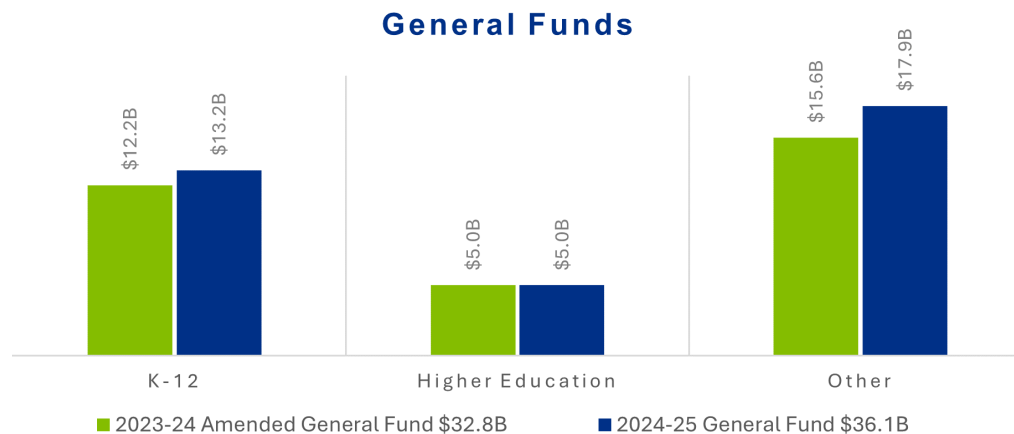
- Strategic planning among local education, workforce, and economic development agencies.
- Collection of data in industry-certified career education programs and career-themed courses.
- Student and parent notifications about available career and professional academies and career-themed courses.

Senate Bill 7032 creates the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education Program, GATE Scholarship Program and GATE Student Success Incentive Fund to provide high school students the opportunity to earn postsecondary course credits at no cost to the student while pursuing the completion of a standard high school diploma or equivalent credential. The bill exempts students that are enrolled in the GATE program from the payment of tuition and specified fees and the costs of instructional materials. To support the participating institutions that administer the GATE Program, the bill requires the GATE Scholarship Program to reimburse them for the tuition and fees and instructional materials for students enrolled in the GATE program. In addition, the bill provides funding incentives for institutions through the GATE Student Success Incentive Fund based on the number of students enrolled in the GATE program who earn a high-standard high school diploma or equivalent credential and postsecondary industry certifications.

Of the education bills Florida passed during the 2024-25 session, six bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (1), artificial intelligence (1), literacy (1), student success (1), and career pathways (2).

Georgia [\(https://opb.georgia.gov/\)](https://opb.georgia.gov/)

Georgia General Assembly approved a \$36.1 billion budget for 2024-25, up 10.1% over the 2023-24 amended budget. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$13.2 billion, up 8.6% and higher education totals \$5 billion, down 0.03%.



Georgia K-12 Education

- \$14.1 billion for Quality Basic Education program, up 4.9% which includes increased funds to raise salaries for certified teachers and certified employees by \$2,500
- \$353.8 million for pupil transportation, up 116.8% from the 2023-24 original budget
- Nearly \$109 million to establish a school security grant program to help schools provide safe learning environments for students

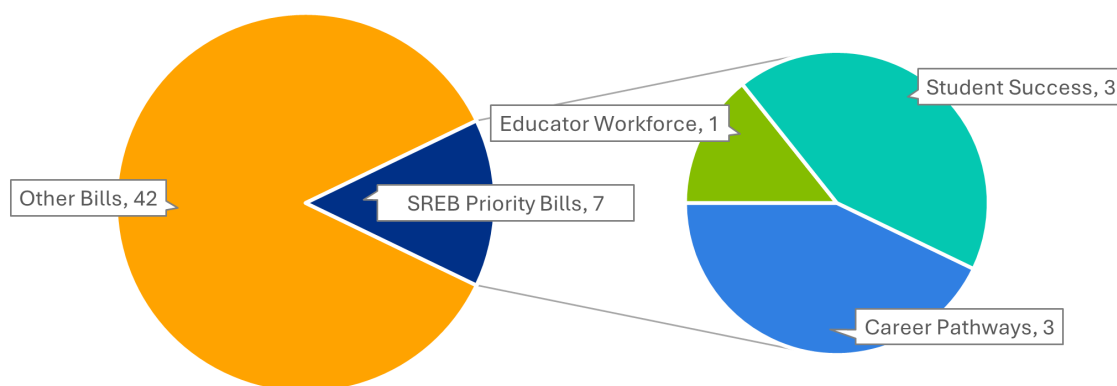
Georgia Higher Education

- Nearly \$3.4 billion for the University System of Georgia, up 2.3% which includes a 4% cost-of-living-adjustment for state employees not exceeding \$3,000
- \$489.2 million for the technical college system, down 9.4%
- Nearly \$1.2 billion for the Georgia Student Finance Commission, down 2.2% including \$91.3 million for dual enrollment (up 3.1%)

Georgia Scholarship Lottery Funds

- \$541.4 million for Bright from the Start Pre-K program, up 17.8%
- Funding for aid programs decline, reflecting a reduction in the expected program expenditure:
 - \$845.9 million for HOPE Scholarships for public schools, down 3.3%
 - \$74.8 million for HOPE Scholarships for private schools, down 0.4%
 - \$76.6 million for HOPE Grants, down 5%

Georgia Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Georgia Major Education Bills

House Bill 298 requires the state workforce development board to develop, approve, and annually publish a high-demand career list identifying those careers most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs. The bill also requires the office of student achievement to work in consultation with the state workforce development board to audit and report on the effectiveness of employment, and wage attainment.

Senate Bill 233 establishes the Georgia Promise Scholarship program. The bill requires that the Promise scholarship accounts to be funded by the state in the amount of \$6,500 per school year for each eligible participating student for qualified education expenses. The total amount of state funds allotted to the program each fiscal year must not exceed 1% of the total appropriation for the Quality Basic Education Program in the general appropriations act from the previous fiscal year. The bill also establishes a parent review committee to assist in the determination of whether certain expenses meet the requirements to be considered a qualified education expense.

Senate Bill 497 redesignates the High-Demand Career Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program. The bill reduces contract award amounts to \$5,000 per apprentice and increases the cap on allowable apprentices to ten. The bill also establishes the Public Service Apprenticeship Program to incentivize apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing registered apprenticeship programs in Georgia in order to support the growth of apprenticeship programs and expand high-quality work-based learning experiences in state and local government fields and careers for persons in Georgia.

Senate Bill 464 creates the School Supplies for Teachers Program to financially and technically support teachers purchasing school supplies online. The bill also creates an executive committee of five voting members within the literacy council and restricts the number of approved literacy screeners to five, with one available to schools for free.

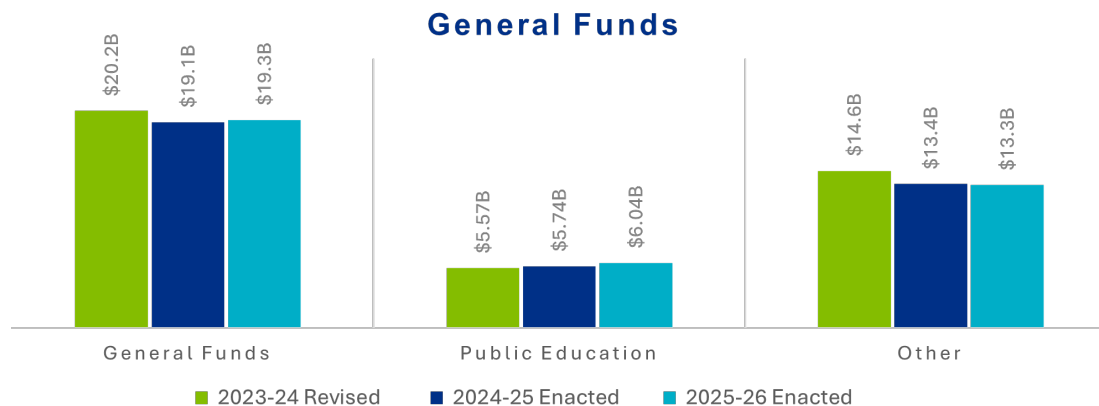
Senate Bill 440 authorizes the local boards of education to award a high school diploma to a student enrolled in certain coursework including some state-funded courses. The bill establishes the Accelerated Career Education Grants pilot program for technical college students pursuing

certain degrees, diplomas, and certificates. It requires school personnel to counsel each student to choose state-funded courses that meet workforce needs and are appropriate for such student based on his or her competencies and on the competencies required in the technical college program of study. The bill also establishes the ACE Grants program for awarding accelerated career education grants to students participating in the Accelerated Career Diploma Program

Of the education bills Georgia passed during the 2024-25 session, seven bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (1), student success (3) and career pathways (3).

Kentucky (<http://osbd.ky.gov/>)

The Kentucky General Assembly approved \$19.1 billion for 2024-25, down 5.2% from the 2023-24 revised budget, and \$19.3 billion for 2025-26, up 1.1% from the first year of the biennium. Public education at all levels totals \$5.7 billion including \$4.7 billion (up 3.7%) for the Kentucky Department of Education and \$1 billion (up 0.2%) for higher education in 2024-25.



Kentucky Public K-12 Education

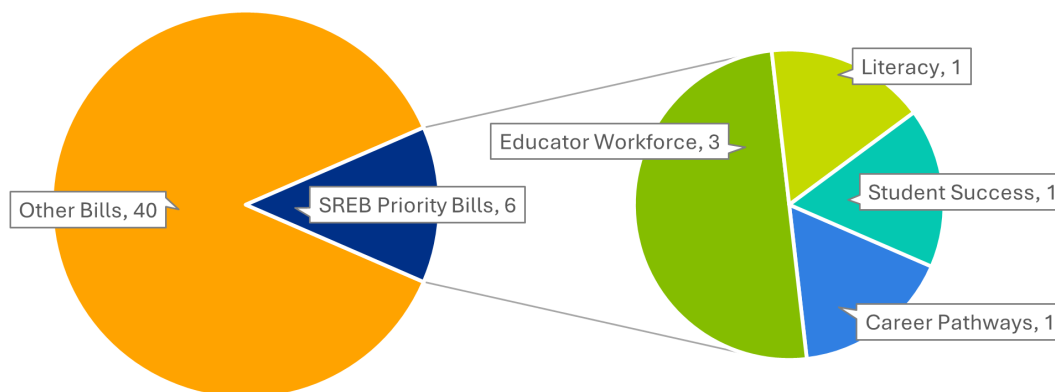
- \$3.3 billion in 2024-25 (up 2.1% from 2023-24) and \$3.4 billion in 2025-26 (up 3.2% from 2024-25) for the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky funding formula including:
 - \$1.9 billion in 2024-25 (down 5.5% from 2023-24) and \$2 billion in 2025-26 (up 4.7% from 2024-25) for base allotment, increasing the amount from \$4,200 to \$4,326 per student
 - \$359 million for student transportation in 2024-25 (up 30.8% from 2023-24) and \$398.9 million in 2025-26 (up 11.1% from 2024-25)
- \$1.4 billion in 2024-25 (up 8.5% from 2023-24) and \$1.5 billion in 2025-26 (up 9.9% from 2024-25) for learning and results services including:
 - \$84.5 million each year for the Preschool Program
 - \$11 million each year for Read to Succeed which provides statewide professional learning for early literacy and numeracy

Kentucky Higher Education

- \$1.1 billion in 2024-25 (up 10.5% from 2023-24) and \$1.2 billion (up 6.5% from 2024-25) for post-secondary institutions including:
 - \$828.9 million in 2024-25 (up 1.7%) and \$882.3 million in 2025-26 (up 6.5%) for state-funded colleges and universities
 - \$187.6 million in 2024-25 (down 6.3%) and \$196.8 million in 2025-26 (up 4.9%) for Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- \$370.2 million in 2024-25 (down 4.2% from 2023-24) and \$393.6 million in 2025-26 (up 6.3% from 2024-25) for the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. This includes three new general funded loan forgiveness programs:
 - \$4.8 million in 2024-25 and \$10 million in 2025-26 for Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Pilot Program
 - \$7.3 million per year for Student Teacher Stipend Program
 - Nearly \$1.1 million in 2024-25 for Kentucky Rural Veterinary Medicine Student Loan Repayment Program

Kentucky Highlight

Kentucky Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Kentucky Major Education Bills

House Bill 162 requires the board of education to define and establish a multitiered system of support including evidence-based mathematics instruction, intervention, and instructional strategies for district-wide use for students in kindergarten through grade three. The board of education is also required to provide technical assistance and training to local districts to assist in the implementation of the system of supports as a means to identify and assist any student experiencing difficulty in mathematics. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, the bill requires postsecondary institutions offering teacher preparation programs for elementary education to include kindergarten through

grade three evidence-based instructional strategies and department-identified valid and reliable high-quality resources for mathematics instruction. The bill also creates the Numeracy Counts Fund to provide resources and training to teachers on evidence-based practices in mathematics instruction and appropriates \$5 million in each of the next two fiscal years to the fund.

House Bill 377 establishes the Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Pilot Program to encourage and assist individuals in becoming certified teachers in Kentucky public schools. The bill requires the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to provide teacher recruitment awards to eligible students who initially demonstrate financial need in accordance with standards established by the authority. It also establishes the Student Teacher Stipend Program, which provides up to \$5,000 stipends to eligible students to reduce the financial barriers they meet in completing educator preparation programs and entering the educator workforce.

House Bill 387 requires the Education Professional Standards Board to issue a one-year emergency certificate for substitute teaching to any applicant who possesses a minimum of a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and has met specified requirements to receive the certificate. The bill allows the Kentucky Department of Education to partner with building and construction trade organizations to develop a training program for school counselors to promote building and construction trades and training facilities available to students.

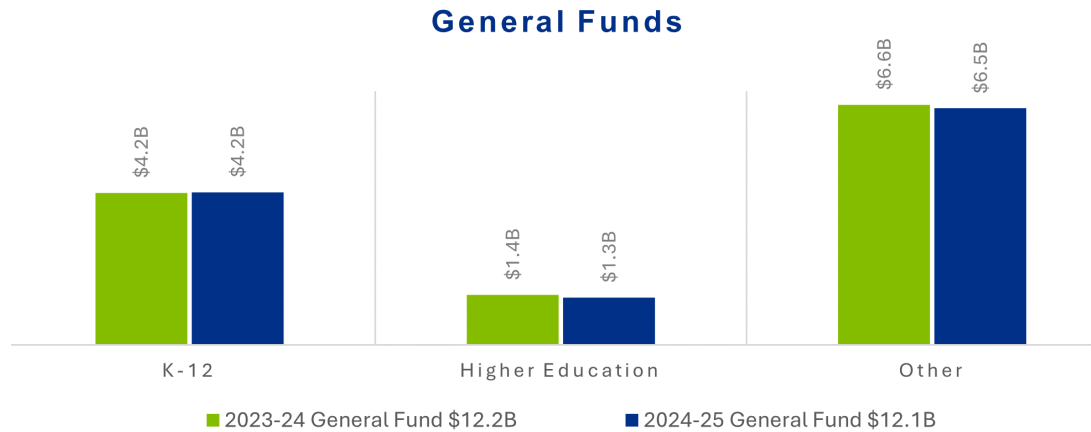
House Bill 695 establishes the Adaptive Kindergarten Readiness Pilot Project to provide preschool children with access to educational technology programs that use family engagement to improve kindergarten readiness. The bill requires that during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, the project must provide a cohort of eligible children with access to an educational technology program that, among other things, utilizes family engagement to deliver age-appropriate instruction in reading that may be implemented in homes or child-care centers.

Senate Bill 191 declares that increasing the retention and progression of students including non-traditional age students toward timely credential or degree completion is one key to improving opportunity for the Commonwealth's citizens and building a stronger economy. The bill adjusts the state's performance-based funding for postsecondary institutes by increasing the percentage of public university funding based on student success outcomes from 35 to 40 percent and decreasing the percentage of public university funding for student credit hours earned from 35 to 30 percent.

Of the education bills Kentucky passed during the 2024-25 session, six bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (3), literacy (1), student success (1), and career pathways (1).

Louisiana (<http://www.legis.la.gov>)

Louisiana General Assembly approved a nearly \$12.1 billion budget for 2024-25, down 1.3% from the 2023-24 budget. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$4.2 billion, up 0.4% and higher education totals \$1.3 billion, down 5.1%.



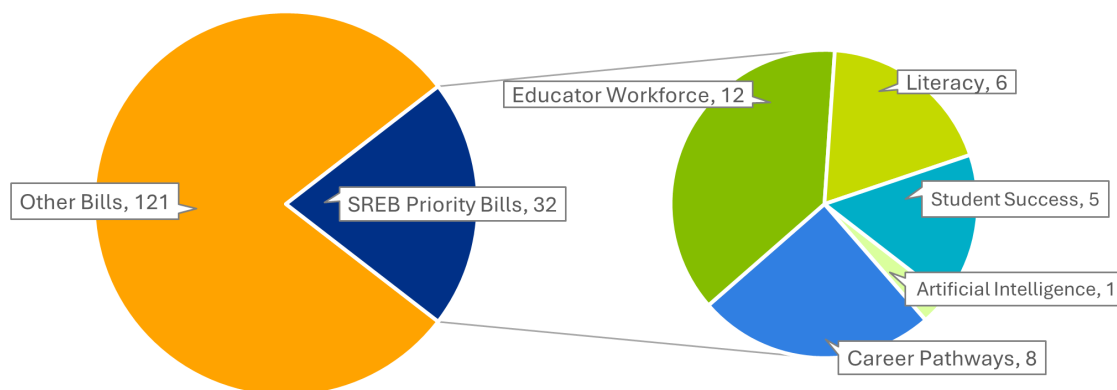
Louisiana Public K-12 Education

- \$3.9 billion for minimum foundation program (down 0.4%) including:
 - \$30 million for tutoring services
 - \$2 million for apprenticeships and internships
- \$31.5 million for Louisiana early childhood education fund, up 22.6%

Louisiana Higher Education

- \$292.1 million for the board of regents, down 10.7%
- \$123.7 million for the merit-based Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarship program that awards qualifying students tuition payments for up to eight semesters at any eligible Louisiana institution

Louisiana Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Louisiana Major Education Bills

House Bill 267 requires the state department of education to develop or select and provide three numeracy screeners to measure the development of foundational numeracy of each public school student in kindergarten through third grade. The bill requires public schools to ensure students take the provided screeners throughout the school year and provide instruction based on methods proven for a strong numeracy foundation. Additionally, the bill requires school officials and parents to create an individual numeracy improvement plan for each student with numeracy skills below grade level.

House Bill 244 expands the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include mathematics and public school students who are at risk for mathematics learning or who scored below mastery in mathematics or English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year and K through five students who lack a mathematics assessment result. The bill also increases the maximum payment for eligible expenses from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The bill expands the pool of eligible tutoring providers to include students pursuing a degree at a postsecondary institution, those who hold any associate or baccalaureate degree, paraprofessionals employed by a local school governing authority, and certified math teachers.

House Bill 862 authorizes the public postsecondary education management boards to adjust tuition and mandatory fees by up to a 10% increase or unlimited decrease over any two-year period. The bill allows each management board to establish differential tuition for graduate, professional, specialized programs, and undergraduate programs which have been identified as “high cost” by the board of regents. It also allows the boards to establish mandatory fee amounts as well as control and consolidate separate fees. The bill requires each board to establish criteria for waiving the tuition in cases of financial hardship and report annually on the tuition and fee changes to the board of regents and related legislative committees from both chambers.

Senate Resolution 138 urges and requests the board of regents to conduct a study relative to the state’s higher education financial aid programs including the Taylor Opportunity Program for

Students, M.J. Foster Promise Program and GO grant program and submit a report of findings and conclusions by February 14, 2025. The report must include the following:

- An explanation of any barriers that prohibit eligibility for these programs.
- Strategies to align the eligibility criteria for each financial assistance program so that they work together more effectively.
- Strategies to align the eligibility criteria for each financial assistance program with the Louisiana Board of Regents' minimum admission requirements and the state's college and career ready definition.

House Concurrent Resolution 66 requests the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and Cybersecurity to study and make recommendations concerning the use and regulation of artificial intelligence.

House Bill 551 and **Senate Bill 352** require the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force to make recommendations for the framework of dual enrollment courses by reviewing existing laws, policies, and efforts in Louisiana and other states on dual enrollment, course choice, student remediation, articulation and transfer, and transition courses. The bills authorize the task force to identify processes to:

- Identify opportunities for expanding career-relevant college credit and industry-based credentials through dual enrollment, including by establishing regional technical high schools operated by partnerships of one or more school districts and one or more public colleges or universities.
- Expand virtual instruction programs to increase participation in dual enrollment course offerings.

House Resolution 239 urges the state department of education to create a task force to research and make recommendations for parent and family engagement in education and submit a written report to the state board of elementary and secondary education and the House Committee on Education by December 31, 2025. The task force must:

- Engage with state and national stakeholders and providers to identify research on best practices relative to effective strategies for increasing parent and family engagement in education.
- Make recommendations on increasing high quality, effective parent and family engagement in education to improve academic outcomes with an emphasis on private-public partnerships.
- Explore any other considerations regarding parent and family engagement as determined by the task force.

Senate Bill 205 provides for additional compensation for educators for overtime work and for work beyond prescribed duties under certain circumstances. The bill requires each governing authority to compensate any teacher who is not afforded the minimum uninterrupted planning time at the effective hourly rate of that teacher for each hour of planning time. It also requires each governing authority to develop a uniform supplemental salary schedule for the 2024-25 school year for certified employees.

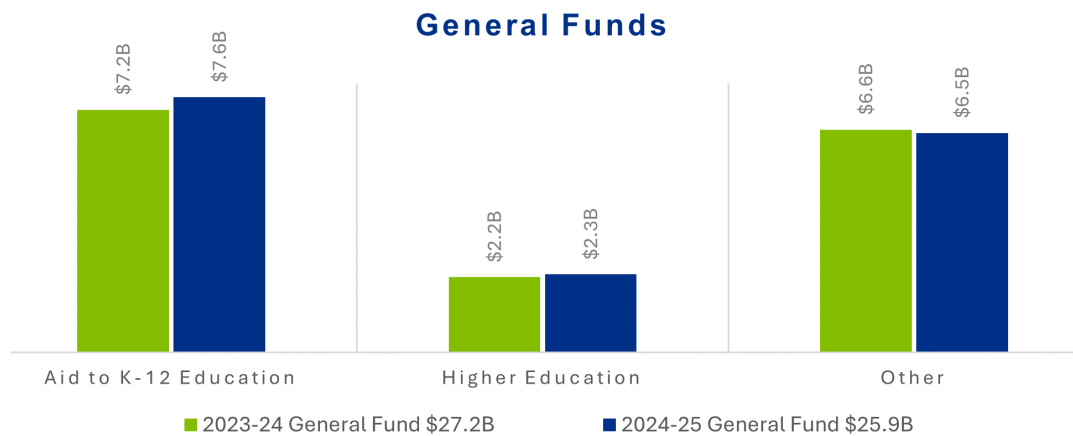
Senate Bill 508 requires that each eligible student in grades kindergarten through five who either performed below grade level on a literacy or numeracy screener in the current academic year or failed to achieve mastery on statewide assessments in reading and math in the previous academic year

must be provided expanded academic support through high-dosage tutoring and high-quality tutoring providers. The bill permits the use of state funds, removing the previous limitation that only federal funds provided for educational relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic could be used for this purpose.

Of the education bills Louisiana passed during the 2024-25 session, 32 bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (12), literacy (6), student success (5), artificial intelligence (1) and career pathways (8).

Maryland [\(http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/\)](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/)

Maryland General Assembly approved a \$25.9 billion general fund budget for 2024-25, down 4.5% from the 2023-24 budget. Total aid to K-12 public education totals nearly \$7.6 billion, up 5.2% and higher education totals \$2.3 billion, up 3.5%.



Maryland Public K-12 Education

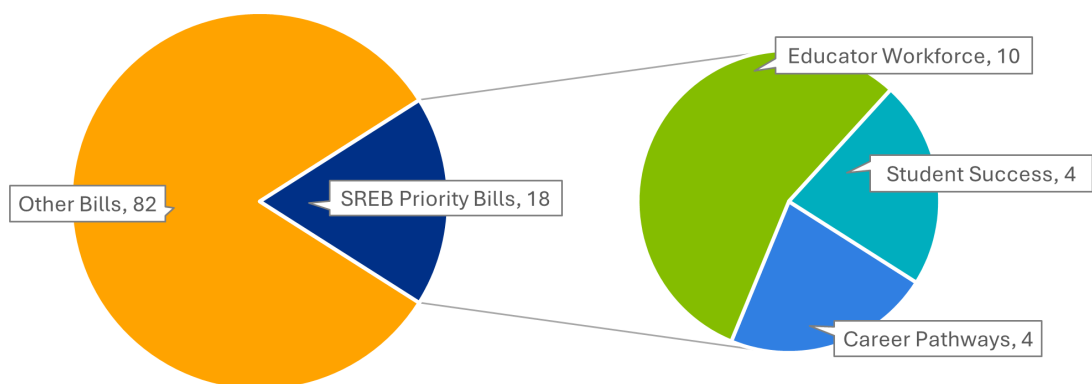
- \$3.7 billion for the foundation program, down 0.9%
- \$886.2 million for fringe benefits, up 19%
- \$328.5 million for Child Care Assistance Grants, 461.2%
- \$20.9 million for innovative programs, down 35.4%
- \$96,000 for teacher development, down 99.6%
- \$3.1 million for Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, up 6.9%

Maryland Higher Education

- \$787.2 million for the Maryland Higher Education Commission, down 4.3%
- \$418.4 million for community colleges, up 1.2%
- \$72.6 million for nonpublic colleges, down 47%

Maryland Highlight

Maryland Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Maryland Major Education Bills

House Bill 75 and **Senate Bill 377** alter the definition of “institution of initial eligibility” to include community colleges as eligible institutions as part of the criteria for applicants for the Teacher Development and Retention Program and the evaluation requirements for the program. The bills also require the higher education commission to hire an independent consultant to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in attracting new teachers to the profession and report the results by January 1, 2030.

House Bill 945 repeals a provision of law that requires a teacher preparation program to require a student to pass a nationally recognized portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability as a graduation requirement. The bill also changes the requirements to qualify for an initial teaching certificate and the certification requirements for a teacher who holds a professional license or certificate from another state. The bill authorizes local school systems to establish comprehensive induction programs as part of a pathway to a teaching certificate.

House Bill 1157 and **SB 937** establish the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program to provide support to eligible provisional teachers and noncertified education support professionals interested in teaching who pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a full-time teacher in the state. The bills also require the state department of education to administer the program and provide grants to local school systems in collaboratives for certain teacher candidates’ expenses and program administration costs.

House Bill 1244 requires a comprehensive analysis of statewide workforce needs by the Maryland Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The bill also requires integrating these needs into the state plan for higher education and establishing new review processes for academic programs to ensure alignment with workforce demands. The bill also incentivizes collaboration between institutions for program development and enhances the evaluation of mission statements to maintain distinctiveness among public higher education institutions.

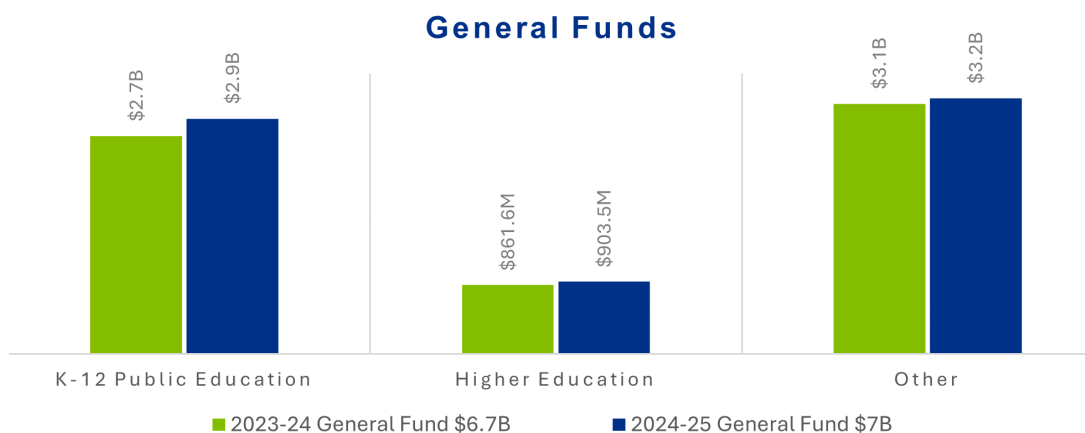
Senate Bill 511 requires the state department of labor to submit a report to the General Assembly that analyzes the apprenticeship mentoring ratio for all nontraditional apprentice-able occupations in the state. The bill also requires that the report must include the total number of apprentices and the number of apprentices by employer who participated in nontraditional apprenticeships in the previous fiscal year. Nontraditional apprenticeships refer to apprenticeship occupations outside of the building trades.

House Bill 811 establishes the Financial Well-Being Pilot Program at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus and Morgan State University to provide comprehensive financial guidance and coaching to help students facing significant personal financial burdens, complex student loan debts, or high levels of financial anxiety or lacking in financial literacy knowledge or skills. By August 1, 2024, MSU and UMCP must each hire one full-time financial well-being coach to provide personalized financial coaching services to students who may benefit from such services.

Of the education bills Maryland passed during the 2024-25 session, 18 bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (10), student success (4) and career pathways (4).

Mississippi [\(https://governorreeves.ms.gov/\)](https://governorreeves.ms.gov/)

Mississippi General Assembly approved a \$7 billion general fund budget for 2024-25 which is 4.9% higher than the 2023-24 budget. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$2.9 billion, up 8% and higher education totals \$903.5 million, up 4.9%.



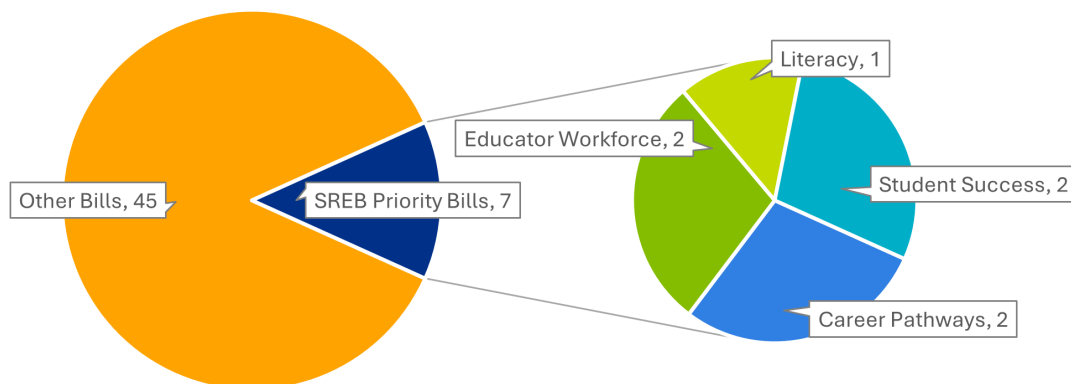
Mississippi Public K-12 Education

- \$2.7 billion for the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, the new public school funding formula, up 24.9% from the previous Mississippi Adequate Education Program formula
- \$86.5 million for vocational and technical education, up 0.1%

Mississippi Higher Education

- \$667.1 million for the institutions of higher learning, down 4.4%
- \$236.4 million for the community and junior colleges, up 6.1%

Mississippi Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Mississippi Major Education Bills

House Bill 4130 replaces the Mississippi Adequate Education Program with the Mississippi Student Funding Formula based on student enrollment rather than average daily attendance. The new formula is based upon an objective-based student cost formula comprised of instructional, administrative, ancillary personnel/expenses, and operations/maintenance components. The formula then provides additional funding for low-income students, English language learners, special education students, gifted students, career and technical education students, students in districts with concentrated levels of poverty and students in sparsely populated districts. The bill provides a student base amount of \$6,695.34 for fiscal year 2025 and requires that the base amount be recalculated every four years and the formula to include an inflation adjustment for the years between recalculations.

House Bill 765 reenacts the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998 extending the repeal date of the act from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2027. The bill directs the state board of education to reimburse licensed teachers for moving expenses up to \$1,000 when they relocate for a teaching job in an area with a critical teacher shortage. The act establishes:

- the University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant Program in Mississippi to attract and retain qualified teachers in areas facing critical shortages by offering scholarships for individuals pursuing education degrees.
- the Mississippi Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Program, a special home loan program for eligible licensed teachers who render service to the state in areas facing critical shortage of teachers.
- a pilot program to provide for the construction of rental housing units for teachers in the West Tallahatchie School District

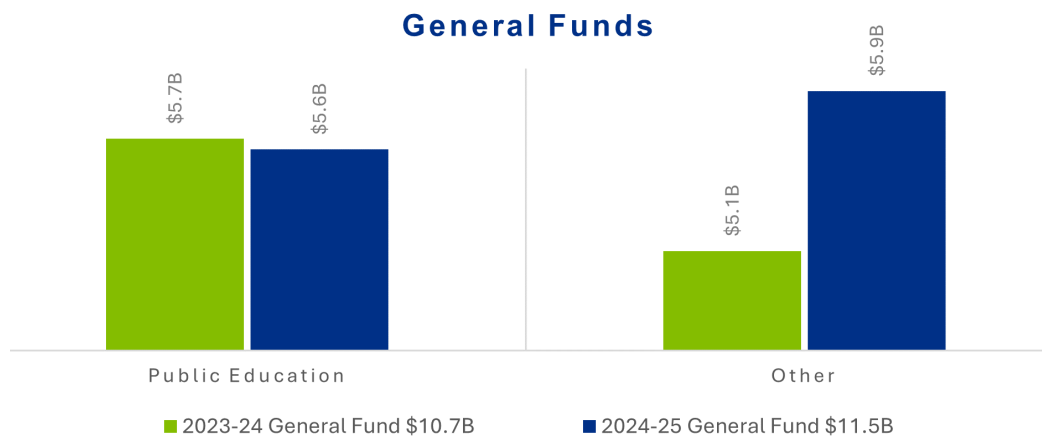
House Bill 1669 revises the qualification for an assistant teacher to include a high school diploma/GED and a Child Development Associate credential, a Montessori certification or an equivalent certification. The bill also requires that anyone working as a master teacher, teacher, or assistant teacher in a federally or state-funded early childhood education program or Head Start must meet these qualifications.

Senate Bill 3099 authorizes a 50% income tax credit for any employer sponsoring skills training including employers that participate in employer-sponsored training programs through any community/junior college in the district within which the employer is located. The credit is applied to qualified training expenses including expenses related to instructors, instructional materials and equipment, and the construction and maintenance of facilities by such employer designated for training purposes which are attributable to training provided through or approved by such community/junior college.

Of the education bills Mississippi passed during the 2024-25 session, seven bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (2), literacy (1), student success (2), and career pathways (2).

Oklahoma (<http://www.oklegislature.gov/>)

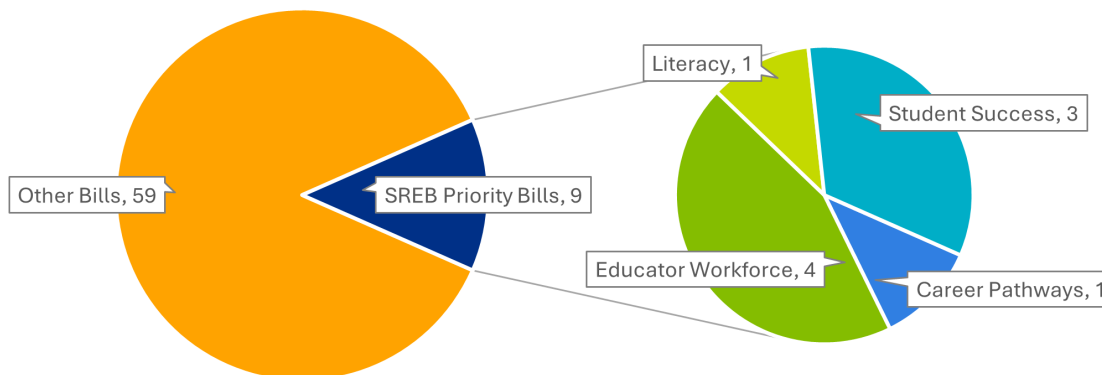
For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Oklahoma General Assembly approved a nearly \$11.5 billion general fund budget which is 6.9% over the 2023-24 budget. Funding for all levels of public education totals nearly \$5.6 billion, down 0.9%.



Oklahoma Overall Public Education

- \$3.9 billion for the state department of education, down 2.7%
- \$7.2 million for Oklahoma School of Science and Math, down 3.7%
- \$1 billion for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, up 2%
- \$448.3 million for teacher's retirement system, down 2.6%
- \$196.3 million for the department of career and technology education, up 19.2%
- \$2.1 million for the office of education quality and accountability, up 12.3%

Oklahoma Education Bills by Topic



Oklahoma Major Education Bills

Senate Bill 362 creates the Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to implement training in the science of reading in accredited teacher preparation programs. Beginning with students entering a teacher preparation program in 2025-26, completion of training in the science of reading will lead to a micro-credential to be reflected on teaching certificates. It also directs the state regents to use the fund to support teacher preparation programs in developing and implementing a micro-credential in the science of reading for certified teachers employed by school districts.

The bill also renames the Reading Sufficiency Act the Strong Readers Act. It directs the state board of education to approve no fewer than three screening instruments and requires each student in kindergarten through third grade to be screened for reading skills at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year. The bill requires a third-grade student who is identified at any point in the year as having a significant reading deficiency to be provided intensive intervention services until he or she demonstrates proficiency at his or her grade level.

Senate Bill 1624 allows eligible full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an institution of collegiate grade or postsecondary institution in Oklahoma to receive a college tuition aid grant. The bill requires the institution and program to be approved or accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or another appropriate postsecondary agency. Eligible programs of training include comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs sanctioned by the United States Department of Education.

House Bill 3276 authorizes the state board of career and technology education to exempt a teacher candidate from a subject area exam for certification in a field that does not require an advanced degree if the candidate has industry-recognized credentials and work experience in a subject similar to the content the exam covers.

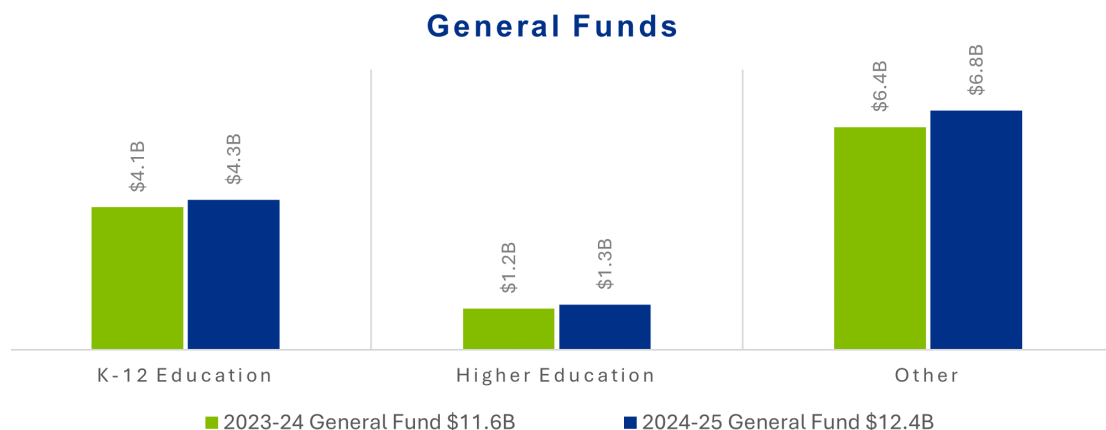
House Bill 3388 creates the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Program to provide scholarships to eligible students with intellectual disabilities studying in a comprehensive transition program. The bill requires the award to be an amount equal to the nonguaranteed resident tuition at an institution of higher education or the tuition at a technology center school. A student is eligible for the program if they graduated high school in the previous six years, have enrolled in a CTP program, and establish financial need. To maintain eligibility, students must meet academic progress and conduct requirements of the program. The state regents are authorized to promulgate further eligibility rules.

House Bill 2672 requires students to complete certain modified graduation requirements including four units of math and six pathway units that align with each student's individual career and academic plan in 8th through 12th grade beginning in the 2025-26 school year. A postsecondary-approved full-time CareerTech program or locally approved course may satisfy the required physical science or remaining math units. The bill also requires the state board of career and technology education and state regents for higher education to collaborate with state department of education, adopt a joint plan for ensuring academic expectations, and submit the plan to the Legislature. Additionally, CareerTech programs and certain AP computer science courses are no longer required to be approved by the state board of education for high school credit.

Of the education bills Oklahoma passed during the 2024-25 session, nine bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (4), literacy (1), student success (3) and career pathways (1).

South Carolina [\(http://www.governor.sc.gov/\)](http://www.governor.sc.gov/)

South Carolina General Assembly approved a \$12.4 billion budget for 2024-25, up 6.7% from the 2023-24 budget. Funding for K-12 public education totals nearly \$4.3 billion, up 5.2% and higher education totals nearly \$1.3 billion, up 9%.



South Carolina Public Education

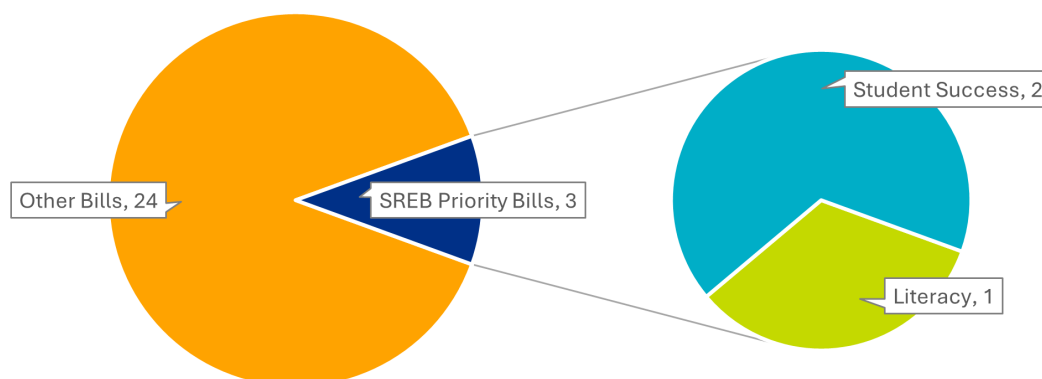
- \$4.2 billion for state aid to school districts, up 5.2%
- \$973.2 million for state colleges and universities, up 11.4%
- \$240.5 million for technical and comprehensive education, up 3.4%
- \$41.2 million for Commission on Higher Education, down 0.4%
- \$28.3 million for Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission, up 0.04%

South Carolina Public Education

- \$560.7 million lottery funds dedicated to education, down 7.9%
- \$1.3 billion for Education Improvement Act funds, \$up 6.9%

South Carolina Legislative Highlight

South Carolina Enacted Education Bills by Topic



South Carolina Major Education Bills

Senate Bill 418 requires the South Carolina Department of Education to implement a comprehensive, systematic approach to reading to ensure that classroom teachers use scientifically-based reading instruction and interventions in prekindergarten through grade five. The bill also requires the school districts to report yearly summer reading camp success rates to the state department of education, including third grade good cause exemptions and projected scores for first and second-graders. School districts fail to meet reporting requirements will have 10 percent of their state aid to classroom funding for the following year withheld until the data is provided but must continue to operate the camps as required under the Read to Succeed Act.

Senate Bill 125 expands the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship stipends to include education and accounting majors in addition to math and science majors at state public or private higher education institutions. The bill requires the commission on higher education to define the criteria for an education major and set eligibility requirements for each scholarship stipend. Scholarship recipients majoring in education will be required to work in a public school for one year for every year they receive the additional stipend. The bill further requires CHE to adjust the minimum test scores required to obtain the LIFE Scholarship in the event that standardized test scoring methods change to maintain the functional equivalent to the minimum scores required in the 2024-25 academic year. Furthermore, the bill amends regulations concerning the use of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship at a state two-year institution.

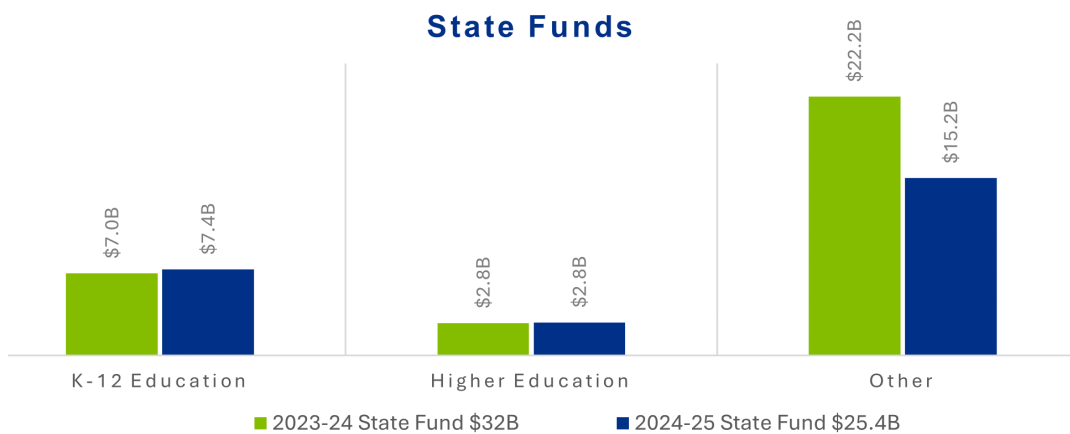
Another related bill, **Senate Bill 974** extends Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship funding to qualifying students attending not-for-profit institutions in the state accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

House Bill 4352 designates the month of March each year as “Middle Level Education Month” to recognize the importance of middle level education for students.

Of the education bills South Carolina passed during the 2024-25 session, three bills align with SREB priority areas, including literacy (1) and student success (2).

Tennessee (<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>)

Tennessee Assembly approved a \$25.4 billion budget for 2024-25, down 20.6% over the 2023-24 budget. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$7.4 billion, up 4.7% and higher education totals \$2.8 billion, down 2.4%. The budget provides \$125 million for public school teachers’ salary increases and retirement contributions and a 3% across-the-board salary increase for higher education employees.



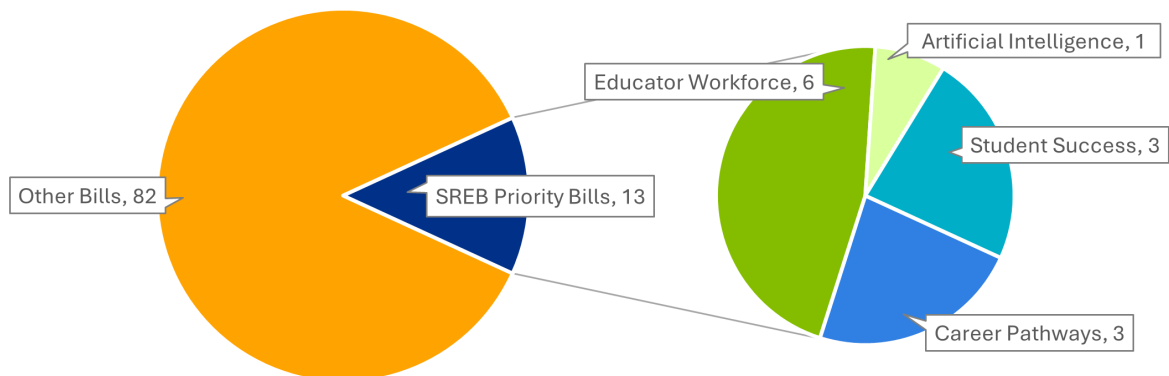
Tennessee K-12 Education

- \$6.8 billion for Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement formula funding, up 4%
- \$106.5 million for early childhood education, level funded
- \$3.1 million for state board of education, down 0.3%
- \$75 million for Centers of Regional Excellence, up 29.7%
- \$13.5 million for college and career tech education, down 67.4%

Tennessee Higher Education

- \$893 million for the University of Tennessee System, up 5.1%
- \$392.5 million for community colleges, up 1.8%
- \$113.3 million for Tennessee Student Assistance Awards, level-funded
- \$8.7 million for Tennessee Higher Education Commission Grants, down 18.2%

Tennessee Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Tennessee Major Education Bills

House Bill 2059 increases the maximum number of credits a student may earn in a work-based learning program in one school year from three to six. The bill reduces the amount of time supervised work experience required for each additional credit earned from 10 to 5 hours per week. In addition, students earning credits for work experience must be supervised by a certified work-based learning coordinator.

House Bill 2326 requires a local education agency or a public charter school of a student to convene a conference attended by the student's guardian, ELA teacher, and school principal if a student was promoted to the fourth grade and does not show adequate growth on the fourth grade ELA portion of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program test, and does not show adequate growth on a locally adopted fourth-grade benchmark assessment in ELA. The bill requires the related parties to determine whether the student must be:

- Promoted to the fifth grade and receive the interventions and academic supports identified in the foundational literacy skills plan adopted by the student's LEA or public charter school for the entirety of the student's fifth grade year; or
- Retained in the fourth grade. However, a student must not be retained in the fourth grade more than once.

Senate Bill 1711 requires the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee, the board of regents, each local governing board of trustees of a state university, each local board of education, and the governing body of each public charter school to adopt a policy regarding the use of artificial intelligence technology by students, faculty, and staff for instructional and assignment purposes.

Senate Bill 1712 requires the department of education to identify and approve at least one standards-aligned professional development course on mathematics instruction skills that is available, at no cost, to teachers in kindergarten through eighth grade. It also requires the department to revise the standards for high school students participating in a teaching-as-a-profession career pathway to include standards-aligned mathematics instruction skills in alignment with the professional

development course on mathematics instruction skills identified and approved by the department. In addition, the bill requires the department to convene a mathematics expert review committee comprised of mathematics educators and experts in this state and nationwide to review and evaluate the mathematics professional development options available to assist the department in identifying a professional development course on mathematics instruction skills.

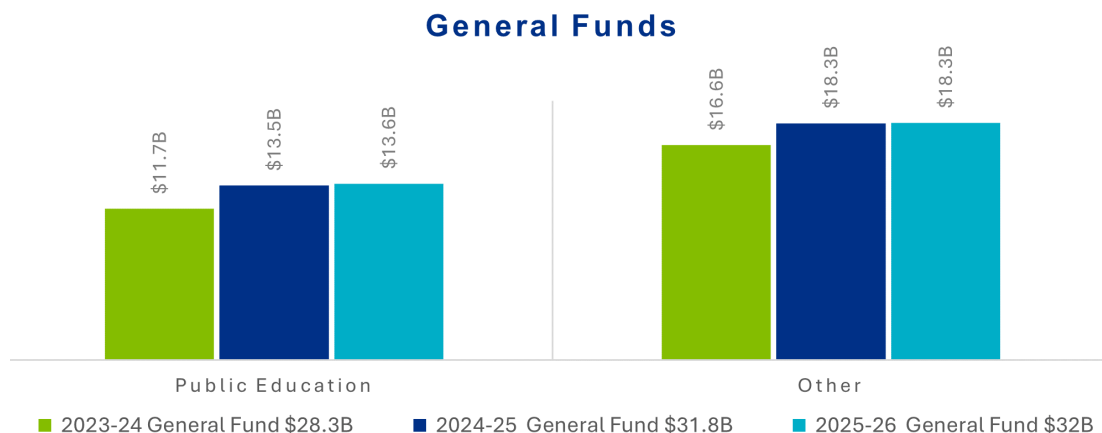
House Bill 1923 requires each Tennessee College of Applied Technology to reserve an enrollment slot for each dual enrollment student in the term immediately following the last term in which the student was enrolled in the TCAT as a dual enrollment student if space is available. If space is unavailable in that term, then the student must be given enrollment priority when space becomes available at the TCAT in the program in which the student was previously enrolled.

Senate Bill 2764 authorizes LEAs to extend career and technical education class sizes and averages for CTE classes in grades six through eight. However, the bill prohibits the CTE classes in grades 6-8 from exceeding the maximum class size and average set for general education classes in grades 7-12.

Of the education bills Tennessee passed during the 2024-25 session, 13 bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (6), artificial intelligence (1), student success (3), and career pathways (3).

Virginia (<http://dpb.virginia.gov/budget/>)

The Virginia General Assembly approved \$31.8 billion for 2024-25, up 12.3% over the 2023-24 enacted budget, and nearly \$32 billion for 2025-26, up 0.6% from the first year of the biennium. Public education at all levels would total \$13.5 billion in 2024-25 including \$2.4 billion for public colleges and universities (up 18.2%).



Virginia K-12 Education

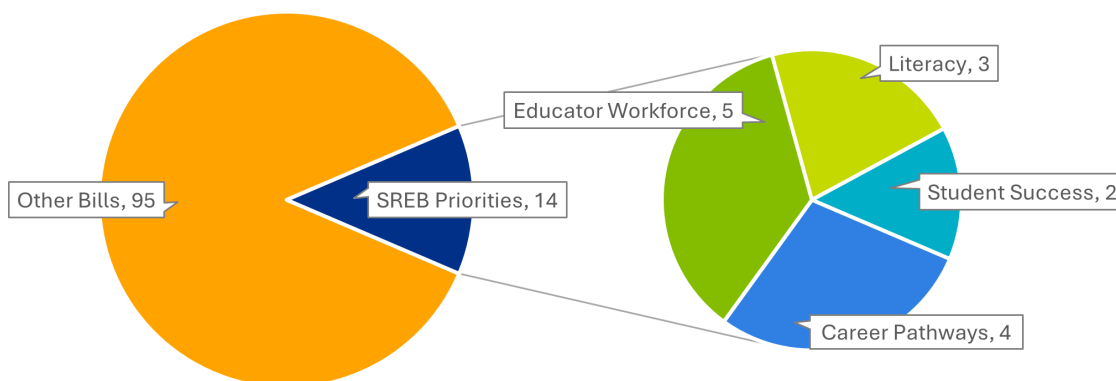
- \$179.5 million in 2024-25 and \$367.1 million in 2025-26 for the state's share of two 3% salary increases
- \$30.5 million in the first year and \$30.7 million in the second year to support the expansion of the reading specialist staffing standard in grades four through eight
- \$3.4 million each year for literacy coaching, training, and professional development, and \$6.6 million in 2024-25 and \$4.6 million in 2025-26 to develop and implement a new literacy screener, to be known as the Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System

Virginia Higher Education

- Nearly \$2.4 billion in each of the years of the biennium, up 18.2% from 2023-24 for state-funded colleges and universities
- \$711.4 million in 2024-25, up 14.3% and \$712.3 million in 2025-26, up 0.1% from 2024-25 for Virginia Community College System
- \$229.3 million in 2024-25, up 18.2% and \$233.7 million in 2025-26, up 1.9% from 2024-25 for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Virginia Legislative Highlight

Virginia Enacted Education Bills by Topic



Virginia Major Education Bills

House Bill 269 requires the board of education to amend its relevant regulation to permit any career switcher who seeks a teaching endorsement pre-K through grade 12, including special education, to pursue a provisional (career switcher) license through the career switcher alternate route to licensure program.

House Bill 615 expands the purpose of the Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Advisory Board to include strategies to promote the participation of historically underrepresented students in primary and secondary schools in STEM education. Among other things the strategy must include:

- Identifying barriers to STEM participation for historically underrepresented students.
- Developing recommendations for elective courses in secondary schools that expand hands-on STEM opportunities for all secondary school students.
- Collaborating with institutions of higher education and the private sector to educate students on and expand STEM pathways and opportunities in higher education, STEM careers, STEM internships, STEM fellowships, and other STEM enrichment programs.

House Bill 632 and **Senate Bill 352** establish universal licensure by reciprocity as a category of teacher licensure for teachers who hold a valid out-of-state teaching license with full credentials and who have been teaching in a non-virtual classroom setting at a public or private elementary or secondary school for at least three years. The teachers must not have any deficiencies in their licenses and must meet other requirements outlined in the bills. The bills also permit the division superintendent to issue a career and technical education teacher a provisional license to allow time for the teacher to attain the industry certification credential required by law. Finally, the bills direct the department of education to compile, publicly post on its website, and update as necessary, data on teacher licensure standards and requirements for each state for the purposes of facilitating the determination of the compatibility of out-of-state teacher licenses with requirements for teacher licensure and licensure by reciprocity in the Commonwealth and increasing transparency of such licensure requirements.

House Bill 647 and **Senate Bill 624** clarify several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act including:

- Clarifying the term “evidence-based literacy instruction”
- Removing the option to use a literacy screener approved by the department of education for certain purposes
- Requiring the department to develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research
- Requiring each division-wide literacy plan to address how the local school board will align curriculum, screening, supplemental instruction and intervention for students in certain grades.

House Bill 1087 and **Senate Bill 627** establish the College and Career Ready Virginia Fund and require the department of education and the Virginia Community College System to establish the College and Career Ready Virginia Program. The bills require each school board to provide qualified high school students with access to dual enrollment courses that are sufficient to complete the Passport Program and the Uniform Certificate of General Studies Program at a public institution of higher education at no cost to the students. In addition, the bills require the department of education to establish a work group to make recommendations no later than November 1, 2024, on the incorporation of a career and technical education program of coursework into the College and Career Ready Virginia Program.

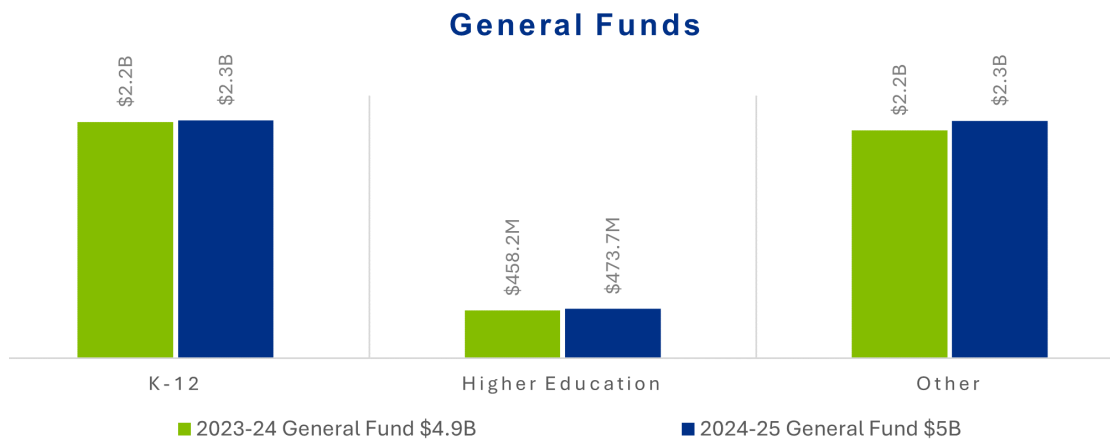
House Bill 1345 and **Senate Bill 199** require the board of education, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, career and technical education directors, and industry partners, to develop and maintain a current, comprehensive, and uniform list of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain units of credit required for graduation. This includes credentials that are accepted as substitutes for electives credits and credentials completed outside of regular school hours. Finally, the bill requires the board of education, in establishing graduation requirements, to permit any student to substitute elective credits for completion of any industry-approved workforce credential that is included on the list as an accepted substitute for such credits.

House Bill 1075 establishes Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Virginia Program for promoting a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging preschool-age children to develop a love of reading and learning. The program provides one reading selection per month to each registered child from birth to age five in participating counties at no cost to the family of the child. The bill requires the program to contribute to local programs a 50 percent match of funds, if available, required of such local programs participating in Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in the Commonwealth.

Of the education bills Virginia passed during the 2024-25 session, 14 bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (5), literacy (3), student success (2), and career pathways (4).

West Virginia [\(https://budget.wv.gov/\)](https://budget.wv.gov/)

West Virginia General Assembly approved a nearly \$5 billion flat budget for 2024-25, up 2.5% over the 2023-24 enrolled budget. Funding for K-12 public education totals \$2.3 billion, up 0.7% and higher education totals \$ 473.7 million, up 3.4%.



West Virginia Public K-12 Education

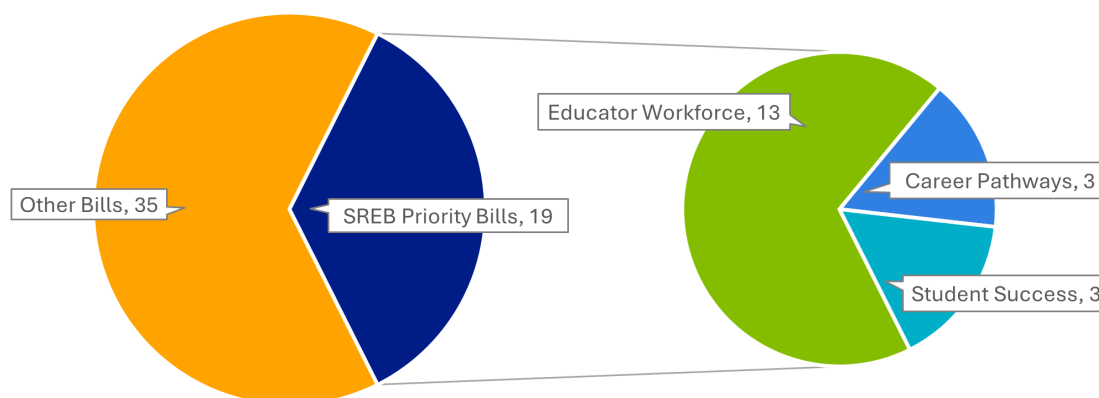
- \$38.2 million for teachers’ retirement savings, up 1.7%
- \$10.4 million for increased enrollment, up 145.6%
- \$886,532 for the math program, up 129.4%
- Nearly \$1.4 billion for basic foundation formula funding, up 6%
- \$18.2 million for Hope Scholarships, down 24%

West Virginia Higher Education

- \$303.3 million for state-funded colleges and universities, up 3.5%
- \$87.4 million for community and technical colleges, up 3.2%
- \$81.1 million for West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, up 3.2%
- \$5.8 million for Dual Enrollment Program, up 38.3%
- \$40.6 million for Higher Education Grant Program, level funded

West Virginia Legislative Highlight

West Virginia Enacted Education Bills by Topic



West Virginia Major Education Bills

House Bill 4709 establishes a four-year pilot program to provide participating middle schools with an elective course to better prepare fifth through eighth-grade students to take advantage of West Virginia's career and technical education programs and to improve students' college and career readiness prior to high school.

House Bill 5162 creates the Youth Apprenticeship Program allowing any student in the eleventh or twelfth grade, or who are 16 years or older to enroll in apprenticeship programs offered at public, private, or home schools and gain secondary credits. The program is required to include a broad range of skills, including those specifically focused on manufacturing, engineering technology, administration and office technology and health care.

House Bill 5435 creates the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree program to provide apprentices or journey workers with the opportunity to obtain associate degrees in applied science while gaining practical skills and on-the-job training through federally recognized apprenticeship programs. The STAND program aims to bridge the gap between postsecondary education and the apprenticeship learning experience and foster a skilled workforce that meets the demands of varied and evolving industries.

House Bill 5405 increases support and professional development for educators, including full-time equivalent teachers less than fully certified for teaching an academic core subject. It utilizes the state aid funding formula allocations to support teacher and leader induction and professional growth. The bill authorizes the department of education to retain an additional \$15 million in funding beginning with the 2024-25 school year to provide continued support and expand the Regional Professional Cadres Program.

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, and every five years after, **Senate Bill 487** requires the state board of education to perform periodic reviews of professional development for teachers and education staff. The board must ensure that the requirements and current training regimens are necessary and truly essential and there are clear distinction between required and encouraged professional education opportunities for educators.

House Bill 4883 provides pay raises for state employees including public school teachers and school service personnel. The bill provides a \$2,460 per year salary increase for teachers. Depending on years of experience and the academic degree received the annual raise would be 3.9% to 6.7%. The bill also provides a \$1,400 per year salary increase for service personnel, which depending on pay grade, would be an annual increase of 3.6% to 6.3%.

House Bill 5514 increases the number of annual training hours for county board of education members and modifies the subjects in which they must be trained. Annually, each member of a county board must receive 12 hours of training in boardsmanship, governance effectiveness, fiscal management, and school performance issues. The bill authorizes the state board to require any county board member to attend additional training if they believe that the training would be beneficial for them in fulfilling their duties.

House Bill 5153 requires the Higher Education Policy Commission to propose a legislative rule to provide for the West Virginia STEM Scholarship Program administration. The bill creates the West Virginia STEM Scholarship Fund for granting scholarships to prospective scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians.

Senate Bill 146 directs the state superintendent of schools to establish a task force by July 1, 2024, to study and consider funding options, the existing funding sources, and the best approach to provide direct funding for adult learning centers.

Of the education bills West Virginia passed during the 2024-25 session, 19 bills align with SREB priority areas, including educator workforce (13), student success (3) and career pathways (3).

This report was prepared by Jeffrey Grove, SREB program specialist (Jeffrey.Grove@SREB.org) and Kimiya Munni, SREB analyst II (Kimiya.Munni@SREB.org). Both can be reached at (404) 875-9211.