



# Joint Meeting House & Senate Education Committees

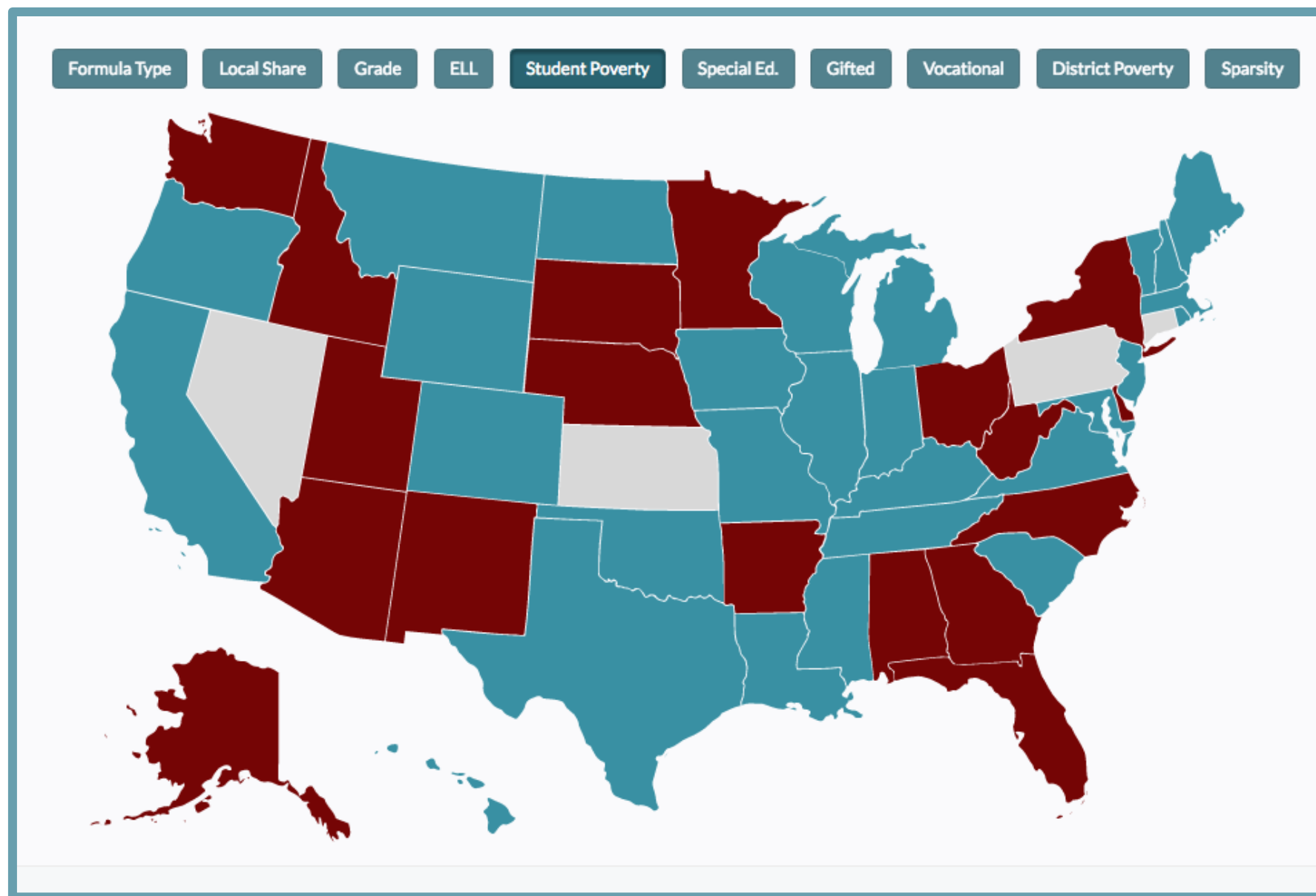
October 27, 2016

- EdBuild is a nonpartisan, 501c3 nonprofit. Our mission is to bring common sense and fairness to the way states fund public schools.
- We divide our work into two discrete work streams: National Voice and State Engagement
  - **National Voice:** We elevate the national dialogue around the inequities created by current school finance systems.
  - **State Engagement:** We work directly with states to help rethink and modernize public school funding systems.

- Our primary strategy when engaging with states is to make funding reflective of current classroom practices, simpler, fairer, & more transparent.
- In our opinion, the best method that states that can use to accomplish all four of these is to move to a student-focused funding system, which:
  - Establishes a base amount per student,
  - Adds weights (or multipliers) to be reflective of the costs of serving different students with different learning priorities. Some of these include:
    - Students from families or communities in economic distress
    - Students that are non or limited English speakers
    - Students with profound or special needs
    - Gifted students
    - Students enrolled in career and technical education programs
    - Sparse or small school districts, and
    - Students in different grades.

*We classify Mississippi as a “hybrid” state. While state funding in Mississippi addresses several of these special student groups, much of it is done so outside of the current formula. A better way to distribute resources is through a purely student-based system.*

# Mississippi: In the National Context



Mississippi provides a weight for student poverty at 5% as a weight applied to free lunch eligible students.

# The Base Costs

- Mississippi’s cost adjusted base per student allotment is higher than all of the states we compared it to

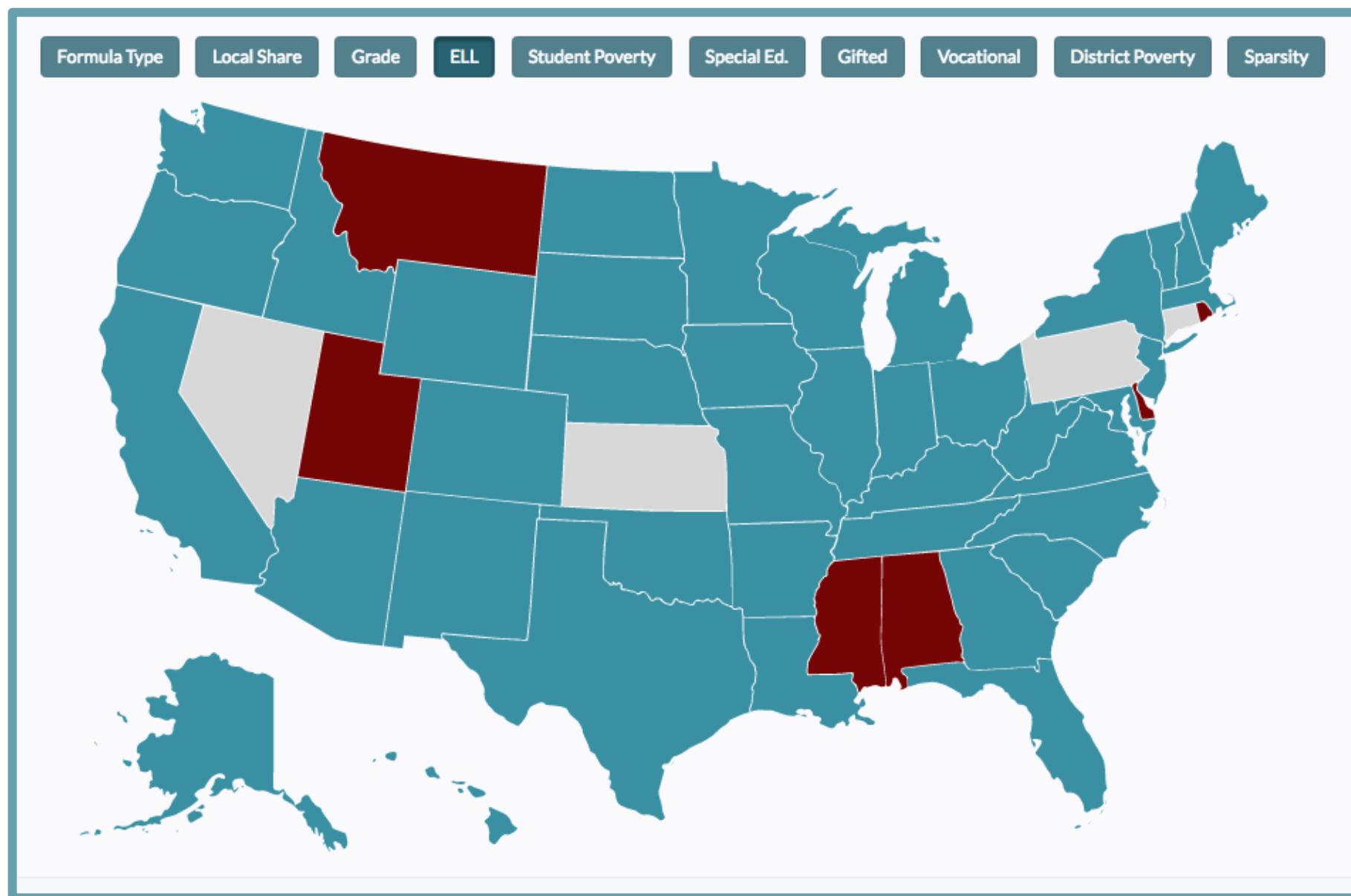
Base cost comparison

| State | Nominal Base | COLA Base  |
|-------|--------------|------------|
| MS    | \$5,354.98   | \$6,514.57 |
| AR    | \$4,584.00   | \$5,336.44 |
| FL    | \$4,154.45   | \$4,345.66 |
| KY    | \$3,981.00   | \$4,694.58 |
| LA    | \$3,961.00   | \$4,401.11 |
| SC    | \$2,220.00   | \$2,418.30 |

Funding for students in poverty

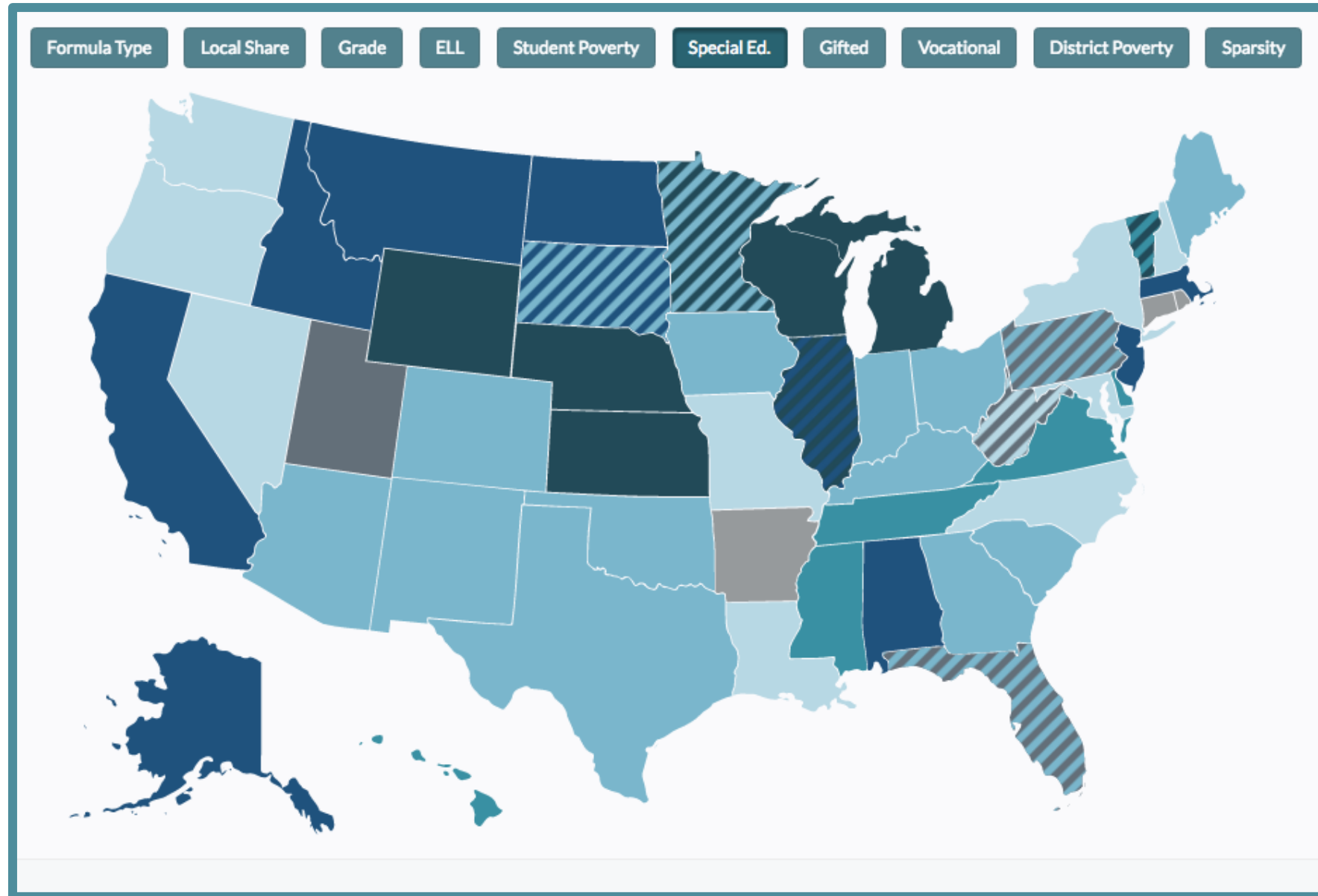
| State | Weight      | Eligibility    | Nominal Extra Funding | COLA Extra Funding     | Nominal Total Funding | COLA Total Funding      |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| MS    | 1.05        | Free Lunch     | \$267.75              | \$325.73               | \$5,622.73            | \$6,840.30              |
| AL    | None        |                | \$0                   | \$0                    | Varies                | Varies                  |
| AR    | Range       | FRL            | \$522 to \$1,562      | \$607.68 to \$1,818.39 | \$5,106 to \$6,110    | \$5,944.12 to \$7112.92 |
| FL    | None        |                | \$0                   | \$0                    | \$4,154.45            | \$4,345.66              |
| KY    | 1.15        | Free Lunch     | \$597.15              | \$704.19               | \$4,578.15            | \$5,398.76              |
| LA    | 1.22        | FRL            | \$871.42              | \$968.24               | \$4,832.42            | \$5,369.36              |
| SC    | 1.2         | Medicaid & FRL | \$444.00              | \$483.66               | \$2,664.00            | \$2,901.96              |
| TN    | Flat Add-On | FRL            | \$542.27              | \$625.46               | Varies                | Varies                  |
| WV    | None        |                | \$0                   | \$0                    | Varies                | Varies                  |

# Mississippi: In the National Context



Mississippi is one of only six states in the country that does not provide additional funding for students with limited English proficiency.

# Mississippi: In the National Context



While Mississippi provides additional funding for students with special needs, it does so on a "resource based" model – without differentiating for the varied costs of educating students with more profound disabilities

# Add-On Programs

- The resource based nature of Mississippi's add-on based programs does not allow for direct comparisons to other states.
- However, many other states, even those in the southeast, are addressing student needs through weights in their formula.

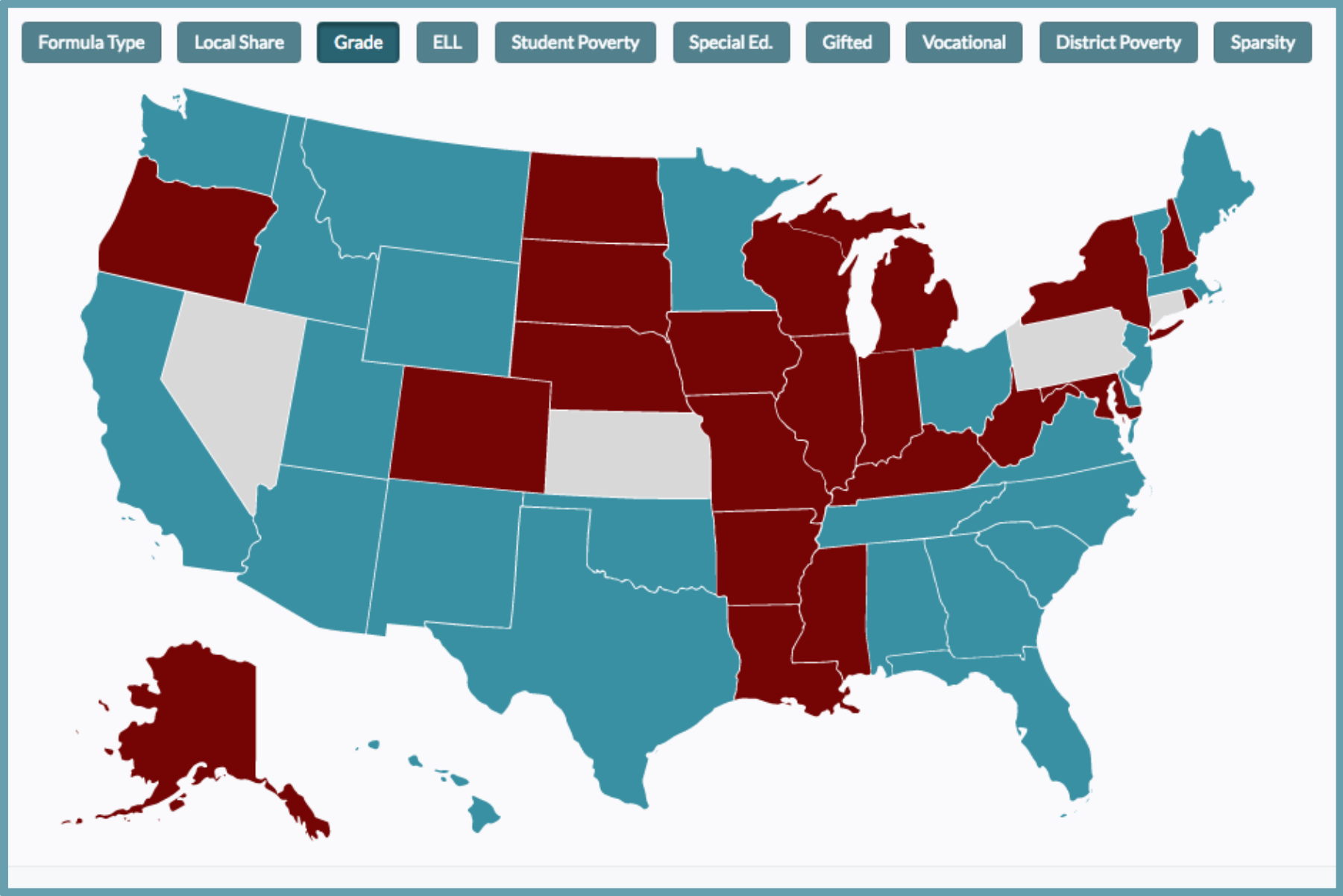
Funding for English language learners

| State | Weight      | Nominal Extra Funding | COLA Extra Funding | Nominal Total Funding | COLA Total Funding |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| MS    | None        | \$0                   | \$0                | \$5,354.98            | \$6,514.57         |
| AL    | None        | \$0                   | \$0                | Varies                | Varies             |
| AR    | Flat Add-On | \$324.00              | \$377.18           | \$4,908.00            | \$5,713.62         |
| FL    | 1.18        | \$747.80              | \$782.22           | \$4,902.25            | \$5,127.88         |
| KY    | 1.096       | \$382.18              | \$450.68           | \$4,363.18            | \$5,145.25         |
| LA    | 1.22        | \$871.42              | \$968.24           | \$4,832.42            | \$5,369.36         |
| SC    | 1.2         | \$444.00              | \$483.66           | \$2,664.00            | \$2,901.96         |

Funding for special education students

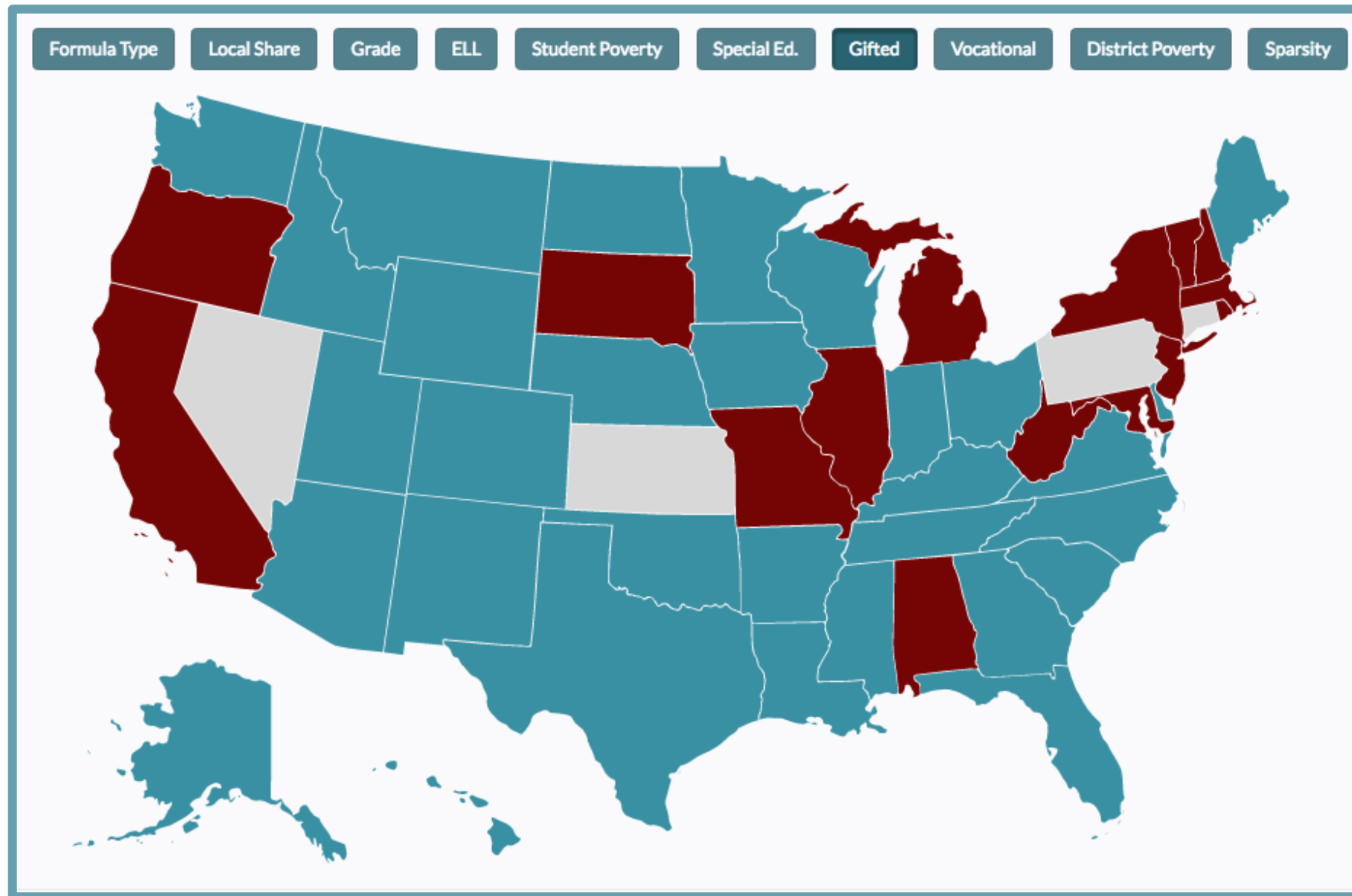
| State | Weight         | Nominal Extra Funding              | COLA Extra Funding                 | Nominal Total Funding                     | COLA Total Funding                        |
|-------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| MS    | Resource-based | Not per-pupil                      |                                    |                                           |                                           |
| AR    | None           | \$0                                | \$0                                | \$4,584.00                                | \$5,336.44                                |
| FL    | Range          | \$0 to \$17,689.65 (+ block grant) | \$0 to \$18,503.82 (+ block grant) | \$4,154.45 to \$21,844.10 (+ block grant) | \$4,345.66 to \$22,849.48 (+ block grant) |
| KY    | Range          | \$955.44 to \$9,355.35             | \$1,126.70 to \$11,032.25          | \$4,936.44 to \$23,336.35                 | \$5,821.27 to \$15,726.83                 |
| LA    | 2.5            | \$5,941.50                         | \$6,601.67                         | \$9,902.50                                | \$11,002.78                               |
| NC    | Flat Add-On    | \$3,926.97                         | \$4,296.47                         | Varies                                    | Varies                                    |
| SC    | Range          | \$1,642.80 to \$3,485.40           | \$1,789.54 to \$3,796.73           | \$3,862.80 to \$5,705.40                  | \$4,207.84 to \$6,215.03                  |
| WV    | None           | \$0                                | \$0                                |                                           |                                           |

# Mississippi: In the National Context



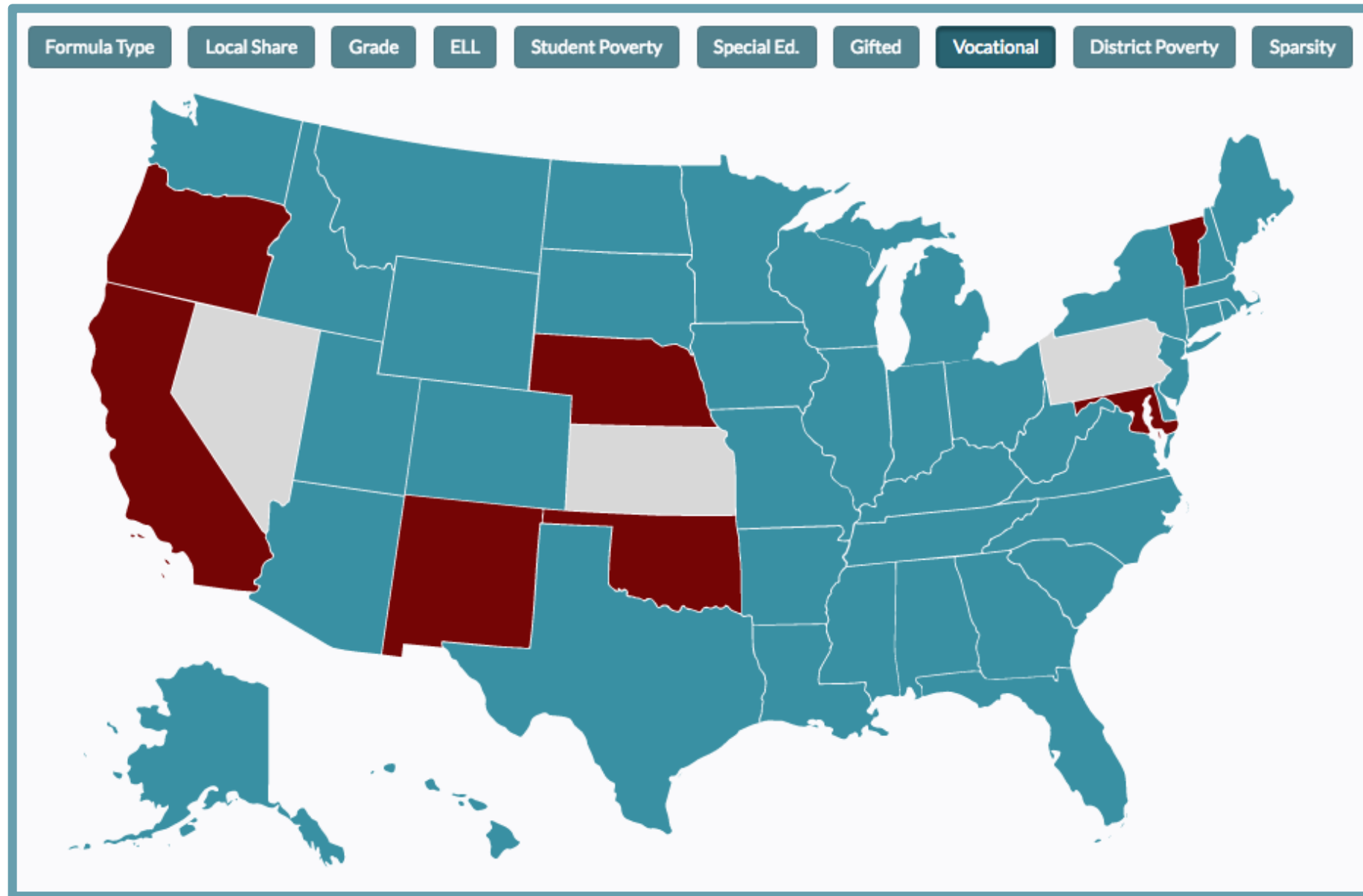
Many states provide additional funds for students in different grade levels. For instance, Florida and Georgia provide increased funding for k-3 students to promote more individualized instruction.

# Mississippi: In the National Context



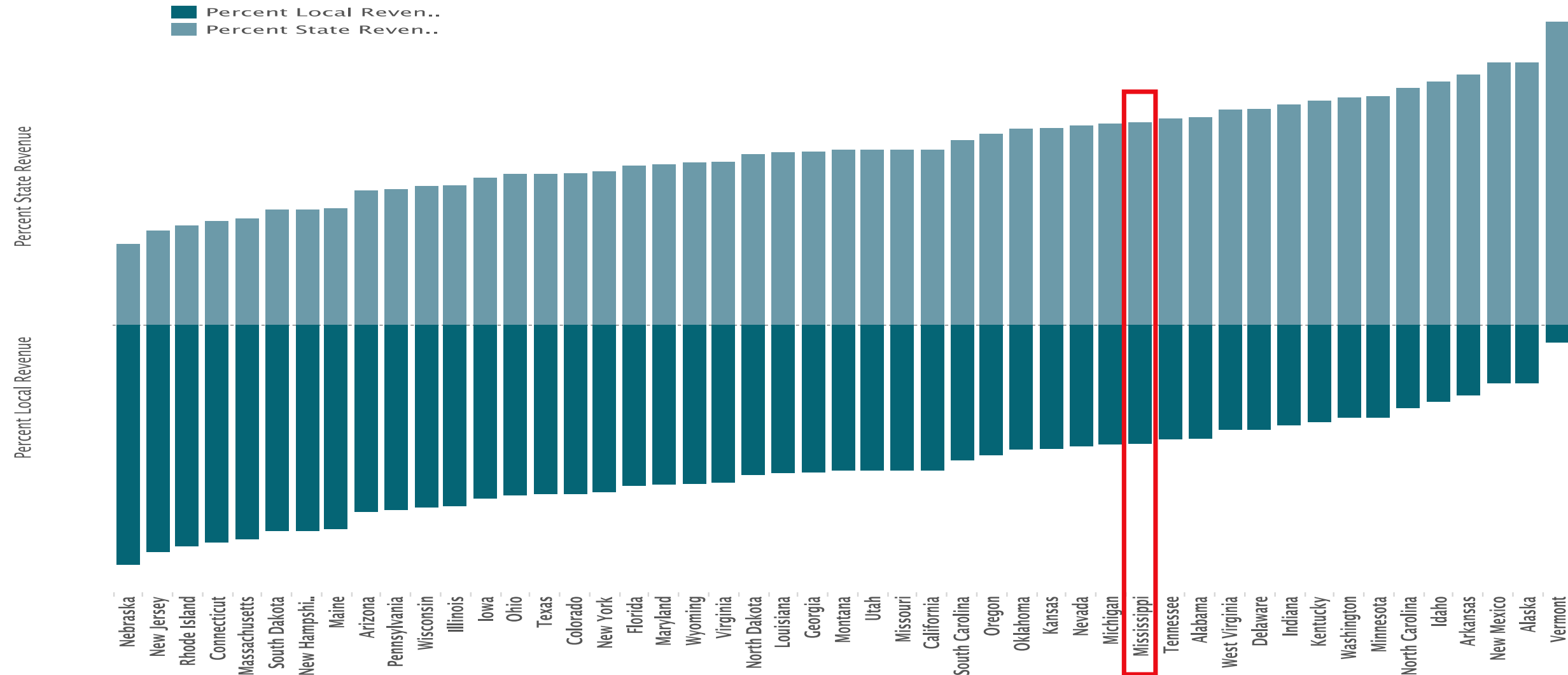
Although Mississippi provides additional funds for gifted students, it does so through an add-on outside of the current formula. Many states, like Louisiana and South Carolina provide these funds in the form of a weight.

# Mississippi: In the National Context



While Mississippi provides additional funds for vocational students, it does so through an add-on outside of the formula. Many states, such as Iowa and Texas provide additional funds through a weight.

# Local State Share



Mississippi is the 15th highest state in terms of state share. On average, 37% of funding is derived from local shares, compared to 50% in Florida where local funds comprise a more significant portion of funding.

