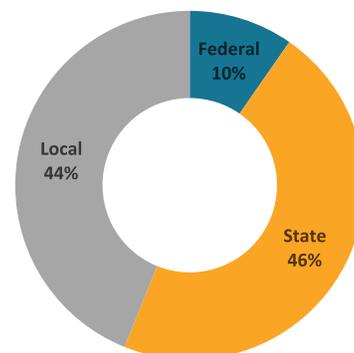


SOUTH CAROLINA

AUTHORIZER TYPE(S)	State Education Agency Local Education Agency Institute of Higher Education
LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	Part of a Local Education Agency
LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT	Total Link (LEA Auth) Partial Link (SEA or IHE Auth)
STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA	Weighted Funding—Funding allocated per student; amount increases based on student
% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	12.77% (all public schools) 9.37% (charter schools)

SOUTH CAROLINA Revenue Sources, FY 2014



FY 2014	Spending Per Pupil
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$9,732
US	\$11,009

*Sources on last page; click [here](#) for definitions

Charter School Funding

The authorizer, whether a traditional district, an institution of higher education (IHE), or the South Carolina Public Charter School District, acts as the LEA.

- Charters **authorized by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or an IHE** receive state and federal funds based on enrollment, but they do not receive any local funds. Instead, these schools receive an additional allocation of \$3600 per student (Brick and Mortar Schools) or \$1900 (Virtual Schools) from the state to offset local funds.
- Charter schools **authorized by a local district** receive a proportionate share of the district’s general revenue funds (from both state and local sources), based on student enrollment for both general and special education. The district is not permitted to withhold administrative fees.

State Funding

South Carolina does not have a guaranteed funding formula. The state distributes funds to school districts on the basis of student need, using cost factors called “weightings” to adjust for the relative cost difference among educational programs. A weighting of 1.0 is assigned to students in grades K-12 who are educated in regular classroom settings. The funding level for this group is called the base student cost (BSC) and supports the costs necessary to meet the criteria established by the State Legislature.

Base student cost (BSC) = \$2,220 (for the 2015-16 school year)

The Average Daily Membership (ADM) for each student classification is multiplied by the weighting factor for the respective classification to determine the weighted pupil units (WPU) for each classification. The WPU is multiplied by the base student cost to determine the total state

State Special Education Funding

A proportionate share of state categorical aid funds will be disbursed to the public charter school based on the number of eligible students.

South Carolina uses five weights for special education which are multiplied by the Base Student Cost (\$2,200 for the 2015-16 school year):

1. Educable mentally handicapped pupils and learning disabilities pupils: 1.74
2. Trainable mentally handicapped pupils, emotionally handicapped pupils and orthopedically handicapped pupils: 2.04
3. Visually handicapped pupils, pupils with autism and hearing handicapped pupils: 2.57
4. Speech handicapped pupils: 1.9
5. Pupils who are homebound and pupils who reside in emergency shelters: 2.1

Eighty-five (85) percent of the funds allocated through state and local effort for each weighted classification, except the Speech classification, must be spent in direct and indirect aid in the specific program (classification) that serves the students who generated the funds. Districts failing to comply with this requirement are subject to a loss or reduction of state funds.

Local Special Education Funding/Services

Charter schools authorized by a local district receive a proportionate share of the district’s general revenue funds (from both state and local sources), based on student enrollment for both general and special education.

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

IDEA Part B funds are distributed to LEAs (i.e., districts, state-operated programs, the SC Public Charter School District, and any other approved charter school authorizer) based on federal calculation methodology.

- The Office of Special Education Services (OSSES), distributes funds (less the amount of state set-aside dollars) through a formula based upon a set base allocation, population, and poverty. The base allocation for 2015 was \$51,358,930.
- The remaining amount of \$102,606,663 is calculated based upon a formula of 85% population (or \$87,215,664) and 15% poverty (or \$15,390,999). Population numbers are based on the information from the State’s 2013-14 135-day Average Daily Membership count by District and Private School Count.

High-Cost Funds

N/A

Medicaid

School-Based Medicaid: South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) provides reimbursement for medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible individuals in the LEA. Funding goes directly to the LEA.

The authorization process includes any agreements that specify the role of the district and the role of the school, including those related to providing health or behavioral health services for students that could be reimbursed through Medicaid. If the school district agrees that the public charter school can bill Medicaid, then the public charter school will operate under the existing Rehabilitation and Related Services contract that the school district has established with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

References / Resources

Reference sites

South Carolina Department of Education

<http://ed.sc.gov/>

[South Carolina Public Charter School District](http://www.sccharter.org/)

<http://www.sccharter.org/>

Funding links

South Carolina Department of Education 2015-16 Funding Manual

<http://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/manual-handbooks-and-guidelines/funding-manuals/fy-2015-2016-funding-manual/>

Medicaid links

South Carolina Department of Education: Medicaid

<http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/>

Departments/Organizations

South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services

South Carolina Charter School District

Sources for data on first page of report

Percentage of students with disabilities: U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2013-14 school year. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2013-14.html>

Federal, state, and local revenue sources & spending per pupil: United States Census Bureau, Annual Survey of School System Finances. Available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>