

FAST FACTS



REPAIRING SOUTH CAROLINA'S EDUCATION FINANCE FOUNDATION



PALMETTO
PROMISE
INSTITUTE

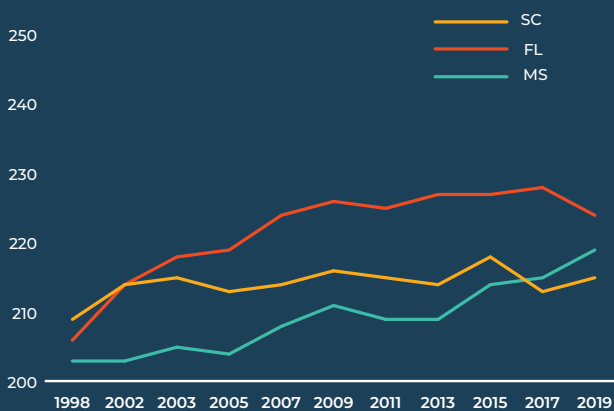
“SOUTH CAROLINA’S EDUCATIONAL FUNDING SCHEME IS A FRACTURED FORMULA DENYING STUDENTS ... CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED OPPORTUNITY.”

- South Carolina Supreme Court

PROBLEM 1: SOUTH CAROLINA'S OVERALL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IS POOR...AND FALLING BELOW MISSISSIPPI.

- South Carolina is at—or near—the **bottom of every major national ranking** of education outcomes.
- In 2018-19, **two-thirds of 3rd-8th graders did not meet grade level expectations for both English and Math** on state tests.

NAEP Average 4th Grade Reading Scores for SC, FL, MS 1998-2019



Source: US Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics

PROBLEM 2: SOUTH CAROLINA'S PER PUPIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES ARE HIGH, COMPARED TO OUR COMPETING NEIGHBOR STATES.

- South Carolina spent **\$10.4 billion** in federal, state, and local education dollars in 2019-20, or **\$14,383 per student**, according to the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office estimates.
- K-12 education spending represents **20% of South Carolina's general fund budget**.
- In FY 2019-20, South Carolina invested **\$295 million in new education spending**, with **\$159 million going to teacher pay increases**.

Public School Spending Per Student By State (Deep South States, FY 2018)

South Carolina	\$10,856
Florida	\$9,346
Mississippi	\$8,935

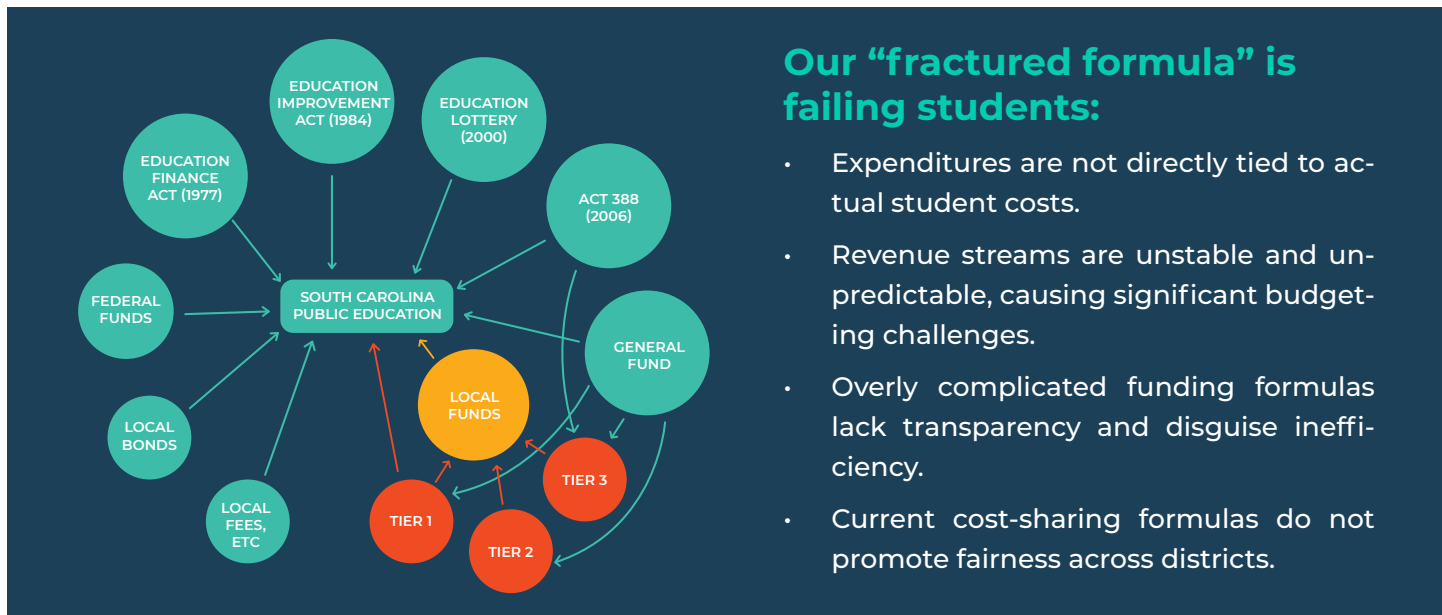
Source: Governing; 2018 Annual Survey of School System Finances, U.S. Census Bureau

School Administrative Expenditures Per Student (Deep South States, FY 2018)

South Carolina	\$691.00
Mississippi	\$539.00
Florida	\$511.00

Source: Governing; 2018 Annual Survey of School System Finances, U.S. Census Bureau

PROBLEM 3: SOUTH CAROLINA'S SPIDER WEB OF FUNDING IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX IN THE NATION.

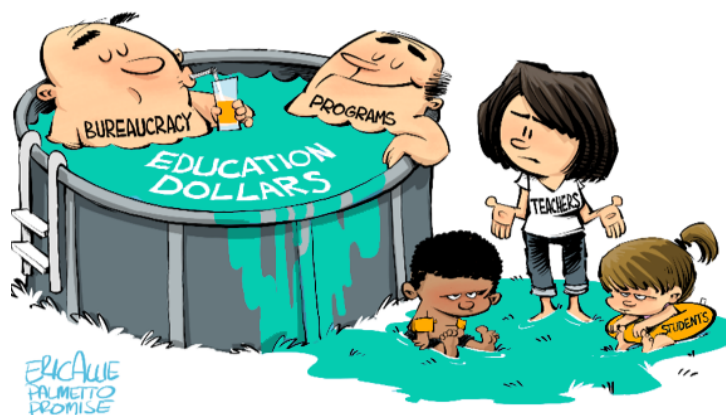


THE SOLUTION: REFOCUS FUNDING ON STUDENTS. RESTORE THE POWER OF THE EDUCATION FINANCE ACT.

South Carolina's Education Finance Act (EFA) of 1977 was built around the specific needs of specific children. However, nearly three-fifths of what South Carolina spends on education is now provided outside of the EFA, and not tied to the number or types of students served.

Student-centered funding would restore the original power of the EFA by providing the bulk of state education funding for each student based on his or her needs.

This would redirect dollars out of bureaucracies and well-meaning but ineffective programs and put those dollars back into classrooms to better support teachers and students.



THREE KEYS FOR STUDENT-CENTERED FINANCE REFORM

FLEXIBILITY

STREAMLINE FUNDING, REDUCE PAPERWORK, and INCREASE AUTONOMY to empower teachers and school leaders to innovate at the local level and meet the unique needs of their students and community. Make principals the CEO of their school and teachers the CEO of their classroom.

TRANSPARENCY

Create clear, meaningful accountability for **TAXPAYERS' INVESTMENT** and **STUDENT OUTCOMES**. Student success is what matters.

FAIRNESS

Provide **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY** for students, across rural and urban districts and between different types of education options.

**STREAMLINE FUNDING | SHRINK BUREAUCRACY | EMPOWER SCHOOLS
SPEND SMART, NOT MORE**