

SREB

# Legislative Report

## *Governors' legislative and budget proposals*

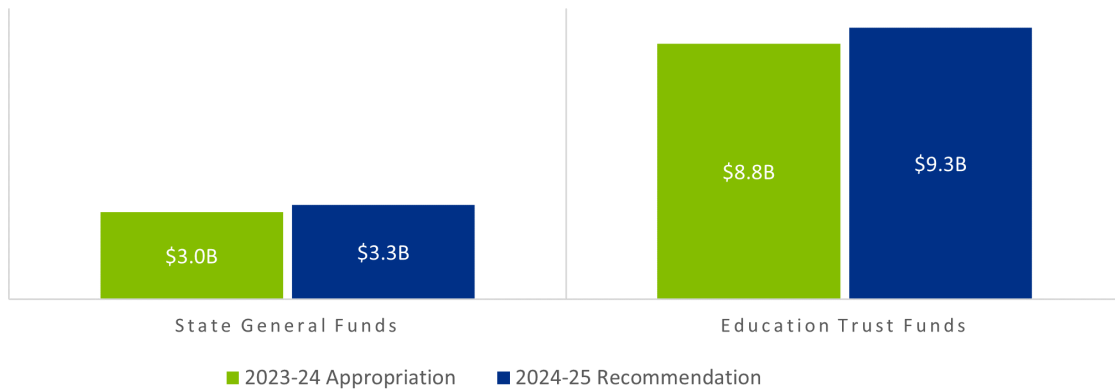
This report presents a summary of the education budgets recommended by the governors of SREB member states. It includes annual budget proposals from Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Note that the summaries only take into consideration the state funds. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the proposed education allocations and highlight the legislative priorities of the governors for the upcoming fiscal year.

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

In her State of the State address, Gov. Kay Ivey expressed her intention to make Alabama the most school-choice-friendly state in the nation. The governor indicated the Creating Hope & Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act — an education savings account legislation, as her number one priority for this legislative session. For the first two years, the CHOOSE Act program would support families to send their children to the school of their choice who otherwise would not be able to do so. From the third year and beyond, the program aims to become fully universal to all Alabama families who wish to participate. Other education priorities of the governor include fully funding both the Numeracy and Literacy Acts, training teachers in the science of math and reading, raising teachers' salaries to make it highest among the neighboring states, establishing an artificial intelligence task force to safely and effectively navigate technological advancement in school setting and investing in critical mental health care for students and school safety.

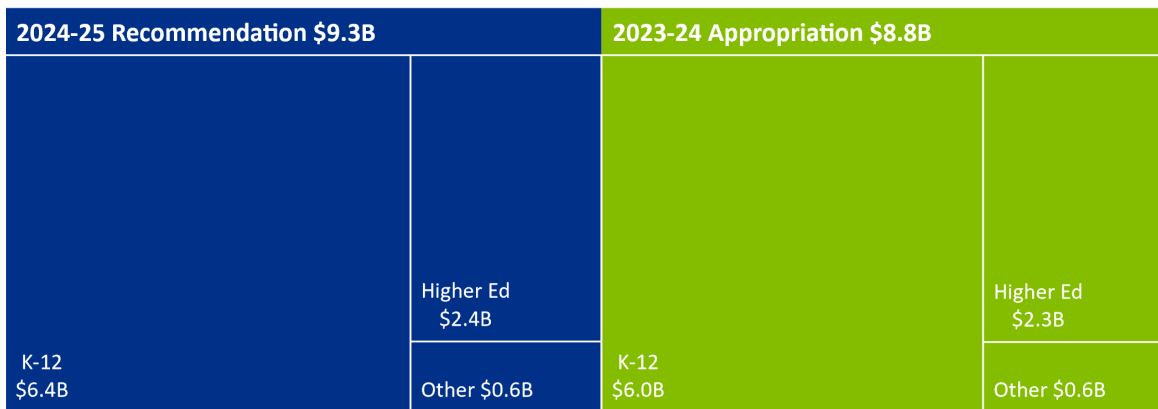
The State General Fund, which supports state government functions other than education, would increase 8.2 % to nearly \$3.3 billion. However, the Education Trust Fund, which supports education as well as some non-education state functions, would rise 6.3% to \$9.3 billion.

### State Funds



State funding for K-12 education would total nearly \$6.4 billion (up 6.2%), and higher education would total \$2.4 billion (up 6%).

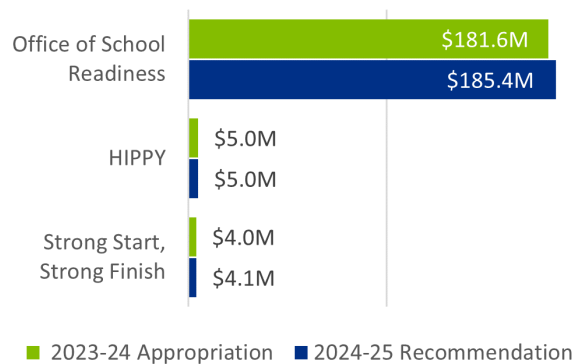
### Education Trust Funds



## Alabama Early Childhood Education

- \$199.5 million for the department of early childhood education (up 2.6%) including:
  - \$185.4 million for the Office of School Readiness (up 2.1%)
  - \$5 million for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (level funded)
  - \$4.1 million for Strong Start, Strong Finish (up 3.1%)

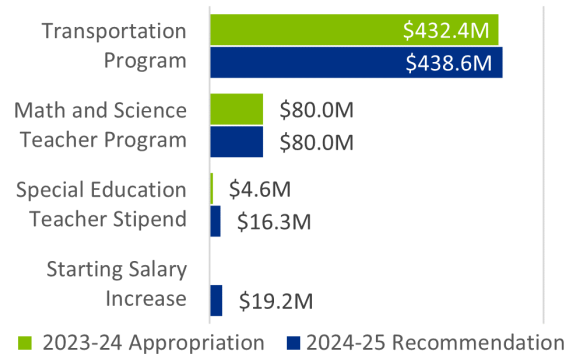
### Early Childhood Education



## Alabama K-12 Local Boards

- \$5.1 billion, up 4.4%, for K-12 local boards which includes:
  - \$4.6 billion for K-12 Foundation Program (up 3.7%)
  - \$438.6 million for school transportation (up 1.4%)
  - \$80 million for math and science teacher program (level funded)
  - \$16.3 million for special education teacher stipend (up 251.6%)
  - \$19.2 million in additional funding for teachers' starting salary increase

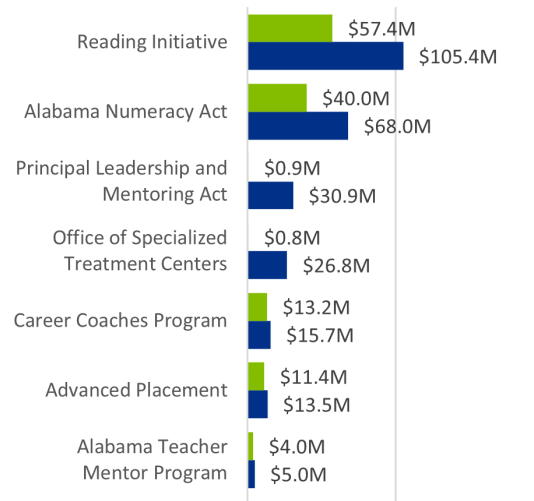
### K-12 Local Boards



## Alabama Department of Education

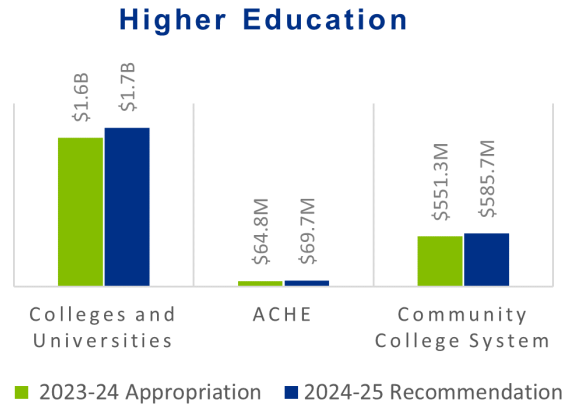
- \$670 million, up 25.3% for the state department of education including:
  - \$105.4 million for reading initiative (up 83.6%)
  - \$68 million for Alabama Numeracy Act (up 70%)
  - \$30.9 million for Principal Leadership and Mentoring Act (up 3529.4%)
  - \$26.8 million for the office of specialized treatment center (up 3250%)
  - \$15.7 million for career coaches program (up 18.9%)
  - \$13.5 million for advanced placement (up 18.2%)
  - \$5 million Alabama Teacher Mentor program (up 25%)

### Department of Education



## Alabama Higher Education

- \$1.7 billion for state-funded colleges and universities, up 6.9%
- \$69.7 million for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, up 7.6%
- \$585.7 million for the community college system, up 6.3% including \$40.5 million for dual enrollment (up 32.8%)



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

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders indicated the greatest accomplishment of her recommended 2024-25 fiscal year budget is the lower rate of growth. Despite lower growth, the budget makes significant investments in Sanders' priority areas such as education, law enforcement and parks. Regarding education, the budget puts additional funding to raise the starting salaries of teachers to \$50,000, expands education choices to more families, and invests in statewide literacy coaches.

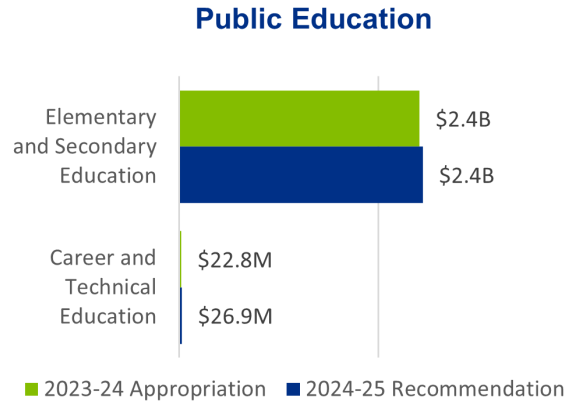
The proposed general fund budget would total \$6.3 billion which is 1.8% higher than last year's appropriation. State funds for K-12 education would total \$2.6 billion, up 1.5% and overall higher education would total \$778.8 million, down 0.3%.

### General Funds

2024-25 Recommendation \$6.3B		2023-24 Appropriation \$6.2B	
Other \$3.0B	K-12 \$2.6B	Other \$2.9B	K-12 \$2.5B
	Higher Ed \$778.8M		Higher Ed \$781.3M

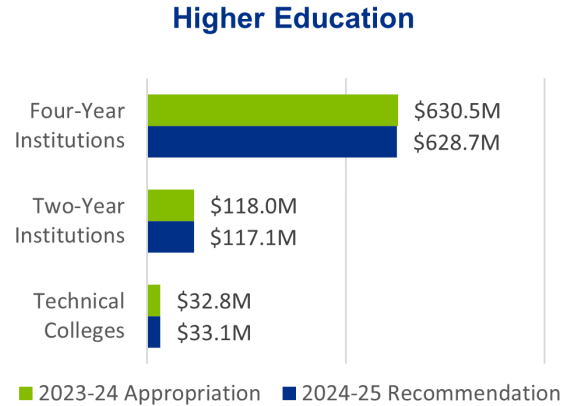
## Arkansas Public Education

- \$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/>)

In his last budget address, Gov. John Carney proposed a \$6.1 billion budget for 2024-25 which is 8% higher than the previous year's budget. The proposed budget commits to continue focusing on key priority areas of Carney — educators, schools, communities, economy and environment. Key education highlights of the budget are to raise teachers' pay by 2% and to support children and families through educational initiatives, Opportunity Funding and early childhood education. Other budget priorities include investing in economic development and creating new good-paying jobs, promoting health care services and increasing efficiency throughout state government.

State allocation for the state department of education would rise 8% to nearly \$2.1 billion and overall higher education funding would total just over \$294.2 million, up 6.4%.

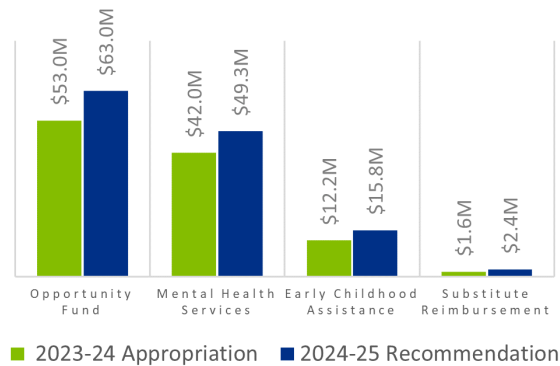
## General Funds

2024-25 Recommendation \$6.1B		2023-24 Appropriation \$5.6B	
Other \$3.6B	K-12 \$2.1B	Other \$3.3B	K-12 \$2.0B
Higher Ed \$294.2M		Higher Ed \$276.5M	

## Delaware K-12 Education

- \$63 million for Opportunity Fund, up 18.9%
- \$49.3 million for mental health services, up 17.4%
- \$15.8 million for early childhood assistance, up 28.8%
- \$2.4 million for substitute reimbursement, up 54.1%

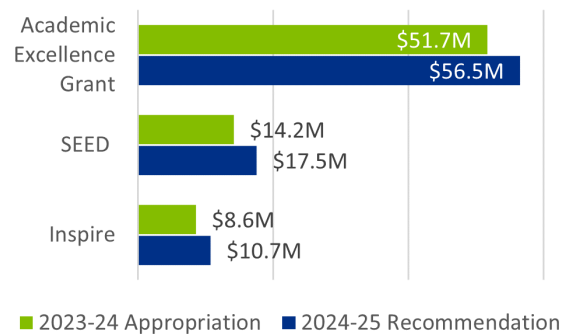
### K-12 Allocation



## Delaware Scholarships and Grants

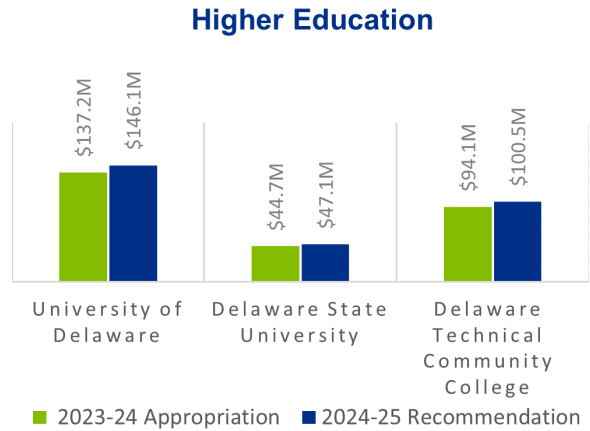
- \$56.5 million for Academic Excellence Block Grant, up 9.3%
- \$17.5 million for Student Excellence Equals Degree scholarship, up 23.8%
- \$10.7 million for Inspire, up 25%

### K-12 Scholarships and Grants



## Delaware Higher Education

- \$146.1 million for the University of Delaware, up 6.5%
- \$47.1 million for Delaware State University, up 5.3%
- \$100.5 million for Delaware Technical Community College, up 6.7%



## Louisiana <http://www.legis.la.gov>

In early March, Gov. Jeff Landry proposed his first budget of nearly \$12 billion for 2024-25 which is 1.9% lower than the 2023-24 existing operating state budget. The reduction mostly resulted from the elimination of the federal pandemic funds. For the upcoming fiscal year, funding for most of the departments would either remain flat or decrease. In his State of the State address, Landry highlighted his top priorities for the session which included the economy, education, insurance and constitutional reform. Additionally, he highlighted improving early literacy, math and classroom environments for all students and providing more educational opportunities and choices to students and their parents.

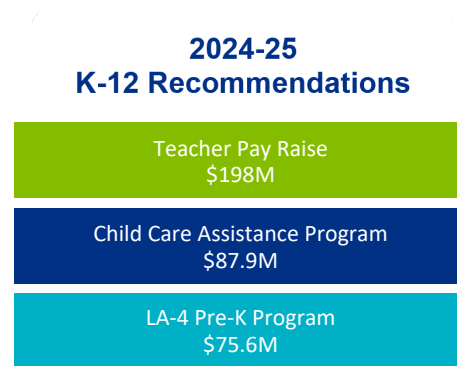
State funds for the state department of education would total \$4.2 billion, down 0.2% and overall higher education would total nearly \$1.3 billion, down 7.5%.

### General Funds

2023-24 Appropriation \$12.2B		2024-25 Recommendation \$12B	
Other \$6.6B	K-12 \$4.2B	Other \$6.5B	K-12 \$4.2B
	Higher Education \$1.4B		Higher Education \$1.3B

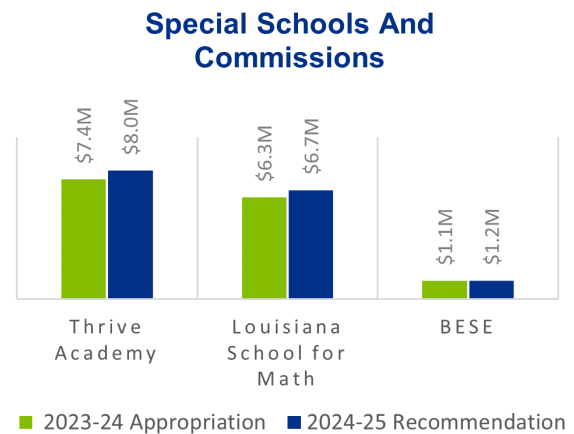
## Louisiana K-12 Education

- \$198 million for teacher pay raise and associated retirement contributions for K-12 educators and personnel
- \$87.9 million for childcare assistance program focusing primarily on children from birth to 3-years-old
- \$75.6 million for LA-4 Pre-K program for at-risk 4-year-olds



## Louisiana Special Schools and Commissions

- \$8 million for Thrive Academy, up 7.1%
- \$6.7 million for Louisiana School for Math, up 7.1%
- \$1.2 million for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, up 1%



## Louisiana Higher Education

- \$1.3 billion for the board of regents, up 284.6% which is largely due to transfers of state general funds from higher education systems, universities, colleges, research facilities, Louisiana, Universities Marine Consortium and the Office of Student Financial Assistance to the Board of Regents for formula funding.
- Nearly \$182 million for the merit-based TOPS scholarship program that awards qualifying students tuition payments for up to eight semesters at any eligible Louisiana institution.



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

In his State of the State Gov. Wes Moore unveiled the four pillars of Maryland’s success for the upcoming year — making the state safer, more affordable and more competitive and continuing to be the state that serves through strategic investments in public safety, education, housing, and childcare. Regarding education, the proposed budget fully funds Blueprint for Maryland’s Future programs and provides additional grant funding for expanding wrap-around services in schools with high concentrations of poverty. It also allocates increased funding to the University System of Maryland institutions and includes a new Higher Education Security Enhancement Funding initiative to provide grants to universities to enhance campus security.

The State General Fund for 2024-25 would total \$26.6 billion which is 2.3% down from the 2023-24 appropriation which is largely due to the end of federal COVID funding. While statewide general funds would decline, general funds for the Maryland Department of Education would rise 5% to \$7.8 billion, and for higher education would rise 3.7% to \$3.2 billion.

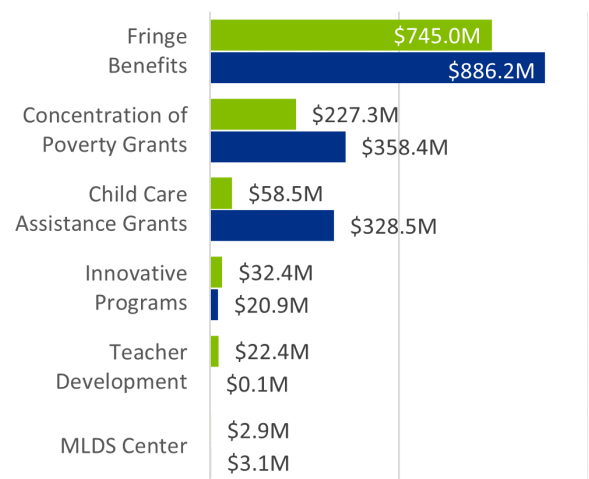
## General Fund

2023-24 Appropriation \$27.2B		2024-25 Recommendation \$26.6B	
Other \$16.7B	Department of Education \$7.4B	Other \$15.6B	Department of Education \$7.8B
	Higher Education \$3.1B		Higher Education \$3.2B

## Maryland K-12 Education

- \$886.2 million for fringe benefits, up 19%
- \$358.4 million for Concentration of Poverty Grants, up 57.7%
- \$328.5 million for Child Care Assistance Grants, 461.2%
- \$20.9 million for innovative programs, down 35.4%
- \$0.1 million for teacher development, down 99.6%
- \$3.1 million for Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, up 6.9%

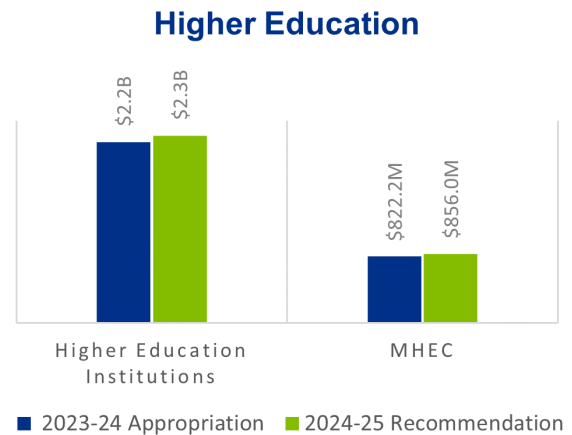
## K-12 Allocation



■ 2023-24 Appropriation ■ 2024-25 Recommendation

## Maryland Higher Education

- \$2.3 billion for higher education institutes, up 3.5%
- \$856 million for Maryland Higher Education Commission, up 4.1% including:
  - \$418.4 million for community colleges, up 1.2%
  - \$69.7 million for community college fringe benefits, 12.8%
  - \$134 million for nonpublic colleges, down 2.3%



## North Carolina <https://www.ncleg.net>

During their short legislative session, legislators reconvened in late April with the goal of addressing pressing issues for the session and making necessary budget adjustments for the second year of the 2023-25 biennium. Gov. Roy Cooper announced his 2024-25 budget — Securing North Carolina’s Future, recommending \$34.5 billion for the fiscal year which is 11.8% higher than the original appropriation. The budget recommends an average 8.5% raise to attract and retain educators and a \$2.5 billion construction bond to keep schools safe for learning. Other notable budgetary actions include providing tax relief to working families and small businesses, freezing private school vouchers, and concentrating on critical infrastructures, workforce and economic development.

Revised general funds for the department of education would total \$13.1 billion, up 9.2% from the original 2024-25 budget and higher education would total \$6.2 billion, up 4.9% from the original 2024-25 budget.

### General Funds

2024-25 Revised Recommendation \$34.5B		2024-25 Original Appropriation \$30.9B	
Other \$15.3B	Department of Education \$13.1B	Other \$13.0B	Department of Education \$12.0B
	Higher Education \$6.2B	Higher Education \$5.9B	

## North Carolina K-12 Staffing and Capacity Investment

- \$322.7 million to raise salaries for all teachers and reduce salary plateaus for specific teachers and support staff
- \$250.4 million for retention bonus
- \$10 million to restore master's pay
- \$5 million to establish a matching grant program to support high-quality teacher preparation residency programs in high-need rural and urban districts
- \$9.7 million to expand the Read to Achieve program to middle grade students

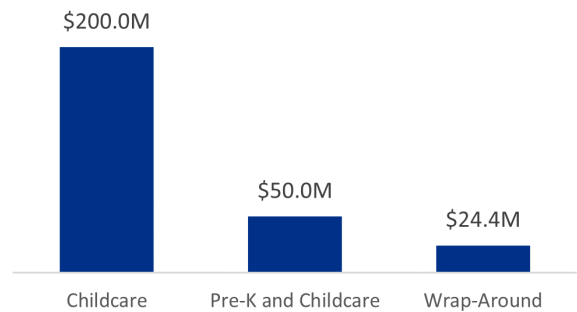
### 2024-25 Staffing and Capacity Revised Recommendation



## North Carolina Nonrecurring Childcare and Early Education

- \$200 million for Child Care Stabilization Grants
- \$50 million for Pre-K and Childcare Enhancement Grants
- \$24.4 million for Wrap-Around Summer Care and Learning

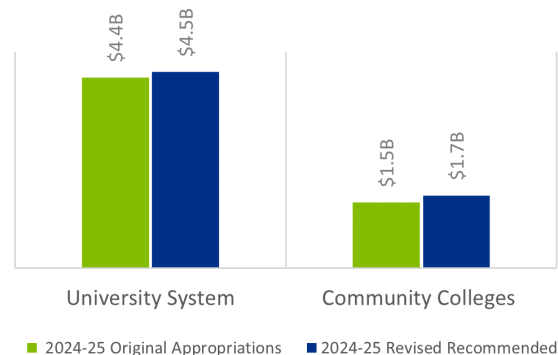
### 2024-25 Child Care and Early Education Revised Recommendation



## North Carolina Higher Education

- \$4.5 billion for the University of North Carolina system, up 2.9% from the 2024-25 original budget
- \$1.7 billion for community colleges, up 10.8% from the 2024-25 original budget

### Higher Education



# Oklahoma [\(http://www.oklegislature.gov/\)](http://www.oklegislature.gov/)

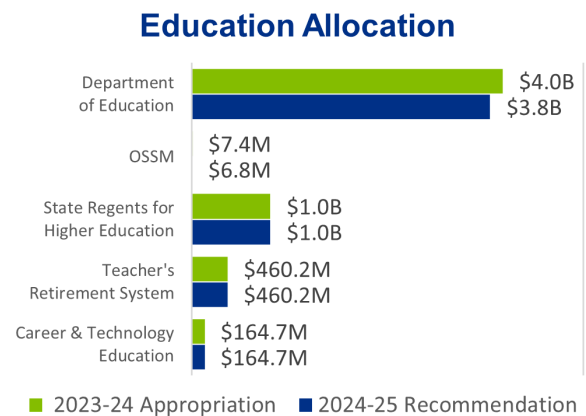
In his budget address, Gov. Kevin Stitt indicated his budget recommendations for 2024-25 mirror the four priorities of his administration for the year which include defending the taxpayer dollar, protecting the citizens of the state, modernizing government, and promoting Oklahoma. Stitt proposed a \$10.8 billion budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year which is 17% down from the previous year’s budget. Proposed education funding would also decline by 2.9% to nearly \$5.5 billion.

## General Funds

2023-24 Appropriation \$13B		2024-25 Recommendation \$10.8B	
Other \$7.3B	Education \$5.7B	Education \$5.5B	Other \$5.3B

## Oklahoma Overall Education Allocation

- \$3.8 billion for the state department of education, down 4%
- \$6.8 million for Oklahoma School of Science and Math, down 8.5%
- Level funded:
  - \$1 billion for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
  - \$460.2 million for Teacher’s Retirement System
  - \$164.7 million for the Department of Career and Technology Education
  - \$1.9 million for the Office of Education Quality and Accountability



# Tennessee [\(http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/\)](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/)

In his State of the State address, Gov. Bill Lee highlighted his proposed budgetary priorities for the 2024-25 fiscal year which include maintaining fiscal responsibility and economic prosperity, promoting equal opportunities, expanding education freedom, supporting strong Tennessee families, improving government services, advancing rural health and enhancing mental health support.

One of the key education priorities of Lee is to provide increased funding for public schools through the Tennessee Investment Achievement Act. The funding would include teacher salary increases, group health insurance premiums and retirement contributions for local education employees. The governor also proposes establishing the Education Freedom Scholarship Act — a statewide school choice program to fund 20,000 scholarships for all Tennessee students while prioritizing low-income students and students with disabilities. Other education priorities include providing recurring funding for a universal reading screener, expanding access to Advanced Placement courses, offsetting disallowed federal funds in the summer learning camps program and non-recurring funding for charter school facilities fund. Additionally, for higher education, the budget recommends recurring appropriations to fully fund the outcome funding formula for the University of Tennessee system, locally governed institutions, and the Board of Regents.

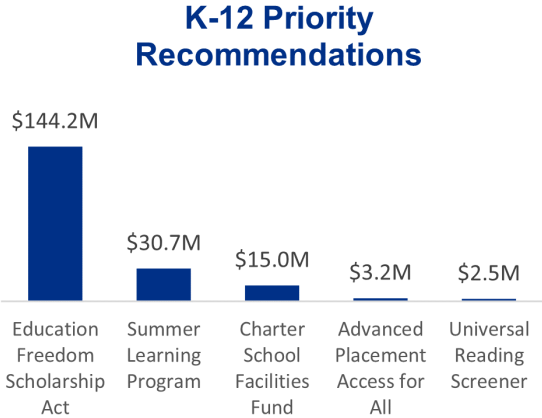
The general fund budget would total nearly \$22 billion, down 19% from last year’s appropriation. However, state funds for K-12 education would total \$7.4 billion, up 4.7% and higher education would total \$2.8 billion, up 2.4%.

## General Funds

2023-24 Estimated \$27.1B		2024-25 Recommendation \$22B	
	K-12 \$7.0B		K-12 \$7.4B
Other \$17.3B	High Ed \$2.8B	Other \$11.8B	High Ed \$2.8B

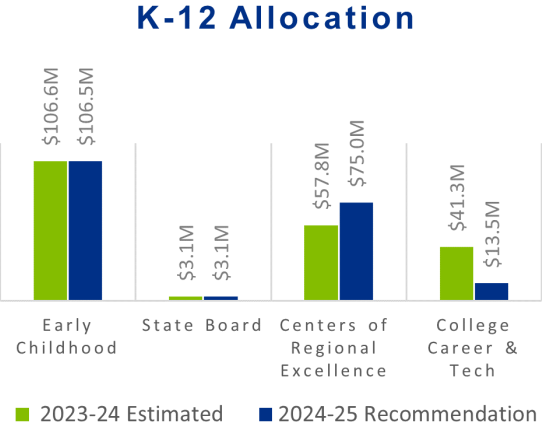
## Tennessee 2024-25 K-12 Priorities

- \$144.2 million for the Education Freedom Scholarship Act
- \$30.7 million for summer learning program
- \$15 million for charter school facilities fund
- \$3.2 million for advanced placement access for all
- \$2.5 million for a universal reading screener



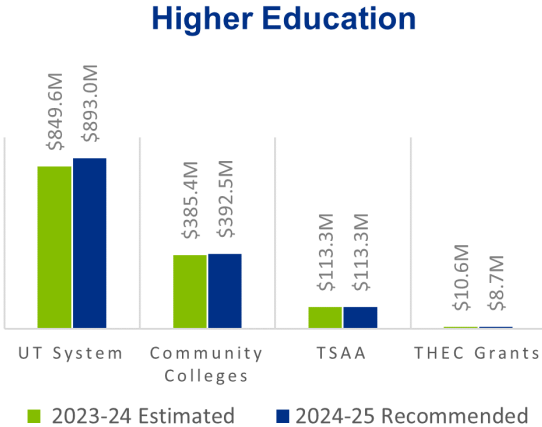
## Tennessee Other K-12 Funding Areas

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



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