

# true story:

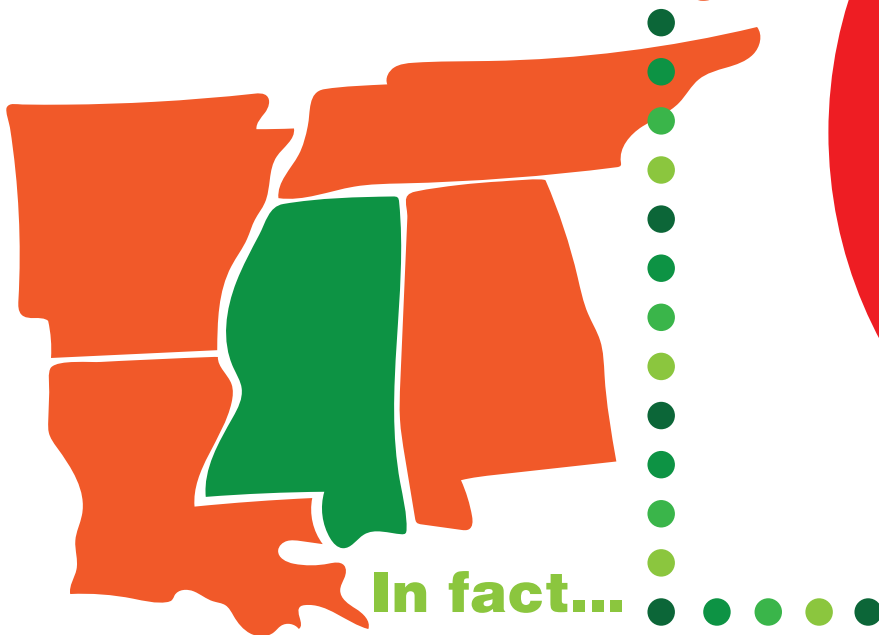
Lawmakers seeking to rewrite the MAEP, the state's education funding law, contend that the current formula calls for an unrealistic investment. When we look at how our neighbors in surrounding states are investing in education, **what is the true story?**

## Take Arkansas...

Our Delta neighbors to the northwest are second only to Mississippi in **lowest median income in the nation.**

Yet, they invest **14% MORE** in PUBLIC EDUCATION

Resulting in a multi-million dollar workforce disadvantage...



**currently our neighbor states OUT-INVEST Mississippi** **\$1200** by an average of more than **PER STUDENT**

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

# IS THE MAEP school funding formula really unreasonable?

Even **FULLY FUNDED** the MAEP is **REASONABLE**, requiring **\$800 less** per student than our neighbors provide their students.

Because our neighbor states out-invest us, Mississippi students have fewer resources and workforce training opportunities. Faced with **preparing a workforce** that is competitive with the rest of the Southeast, is it reasonable to suggest we fall further behind?