



Alaska

Overall Rank

#41

Alaska ranks #41 in overall education freedom, with bottom-ten ranks in education choice and return on investment.

Education Choice Rank

#42

Alaska ranks #42 for education choice. Alaska does fairly well in allowing families to choose among district schools but could do more to expand education choice. Alaska respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Alaska could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, making it easier for charter schools to open and operate, and giving families a choice of traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

Transparency Rank

#28

Alaska lawmakers have neither adopted proposals that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools, nor addressed the threats to minor-age children from the teaching of “gender” in place of biological sex. In 2016, state officials adopted a parent bill of rights¹ that empowers parents to review K-12 instructional content.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#31

Alaska has an unfriendly environment for teacher freedom, ranking 31st among all states. Zero percent of teachers entered the classroom through alternative teacher certification options, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of licensure for out-of-state teachers. The state’s largest school district (only two have more than 15,000 students) employs a chief diversity officer. Alaska does not use Common Core-aligned tests and was one of just a handful of states to reject Common Core from its inception. Alaska can improve teacher freedom in the state by allowing alternative teacher certification and licensure reciprocity, or by ending certification requirements altogether, while ending the practice of hiring chief diversity officers.

Return on Investment Rank

#46

Alaska ranks 46th overall for return on investment in education spending. Alaska spends the ninth-most per pupil among states, spending \$18,745 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Alaska ranks 46th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. Moreover, the Last Frontier State employs 0.79 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Alaska’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 15.8 percent of its state GDP. To improve its return-on-investment ranking, Alaska should lower spending, improve academic outcomes on the NAEP, stop the growth in non-teaching staff, and address its significant unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

Alaska: One-Year Rank Changes (2022–2023)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 4	▲ 6	▲ 1	0	▲ 1

NOTE:

1. <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/29?Root=HB%20156>