



Connecticut

Overall Rank

#50

Connecticut’s overall rank in education freedom declined four spots since last year and is now second-worst in the nation at #50. The state ranks dead last in return on investment for the second year.

Education Choice Rank

#33

Connecticut ranks #33 for education choice. Connecticut does fairly well in allowing families to choose among charter and district schools, but could do much more to expand private education choice. Connecticut respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Connecticut 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

#43

Connecticut lawmakers have not adopted proposals that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools. The state school board¹ is to “encourage” local school boards to develop programs that “include the development of written materials designed to familiarize parents with their child’s curriculum and to detail specific activities parents and students may undertake together to enrich the child’s education experience and development.” Lawmakers should require public schools to allow parents and taxpayers to review academic content used in K-12 classrooms concurrent with the time, or before, such content is presented to students.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#44

The Constitution State ranks 44th in teacher freedom. Just 16 percent of Connecticut teachers make their way to the K-12 classroom via alternative teacher certification programs, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Approximately 20 percent of Connecticut’s school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the state still uses Common Core-aligned assessments. Connecticut can improve its teacher freedom ranking by allowing additional routes into the classroom beyond university-based colleges of education, supporting full reciprocity of teacher licensure, or ending certification requirements altogether, exiting from the Common Core assessments, and ending the practice of hiring “chief diversity officers” in school districts.

Return on Investment Rank

#51

Connecticut ranks last—51st—overall for return on investment (ROI) in education spending. Connecticut spends the fourth-most per pupil among states, spending \$22,252 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Connecticut ranks 14th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Constitution State employs 0.78 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Connecticut’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 15.6 percent of its state GDP. Connecticut can improve its ROI ranking by lowering per-pupil spending, stopping growth in non-teaching staff, and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

Connecticut: One-Year Rank Changes (2022-2023)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 4	▲ 3	▼ 7	▼ 1	0

NOTE:

1. https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_163.htm#sec_10-4g