



Delaware

Overall Rank

#44

Delaware was below average last year in education freedom and has since tumbled 13 spots in overall rank. The state previously was in the top ten in transparency, but now ranks #39.

Education Choice Rank

#39

Delaware ranks #39 for education choice. Delaware does fairly well in allowing families to choose among district schools but could do much more to expand private education choice. Delaware generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Delaware could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy and making it easier for charter schools to open and operate.

Transparency Rank

#39

Delaware lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools, or protect children from radical teaching about “gender.”

Teacher Freedom Rank

#50

Delaware ranks 50th in teacher freedom. Thirty-six percent of its teachers are alternatively certified, and the First State does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licenses. All Delaware school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the state still uses Common Core-aligned tests. Delaware can improve its teacher freedom ranking by facilitating alternative routes into the classroom for aspiring teachers, beyond just university-based colleges of education, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licenses, or ending certification requirements altogether, ending the practice of hiring non-teaching staff, such as “chief diversity officers,” and exiting the Common Core-aligned tests.

Return on Investment Rank

#23

Delaware ranks 23rd overall in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Delaware spends the 15th-most per pupil among states, spending \$16,963 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Delaware ranks 48th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The First State employs 1.32 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Delaware’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 1.9 percent of its state GDP. Delaware can improve its ROI ranking by limiting growth in per-pupil spending and improving academic achievement on the NAEP.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 13	▲ 1	▼ 32	▲ 1	▼ 9