



Indiana

Overall Rank

#5

Indiana ranks #5 in overall education freedom. The state moved up 13 spots in transparency but dropped ten spots in return on investment.

Education Choice Rank

#3

Indiana ranks #3 for education choice. Indiana does exceptionally well in giving families the freedom to choose among private, charter, and district schools, as well as other learning environments. Additionally, Indiana offers K-12 education savings accounts (ESAs) that most families can use to customize the education of eligible students and respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Indiana could improve its ranking by expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its existing private education choice policies, and by eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools, including the state test mandate. Indiana could also improve its ranking by making it easier for charter schools to open and operate.

Transparency Rank

#14

Indiana lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, create a parent bill of rights, or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools. Lawmakers should consider the proposals outlined¹ by state Attorney General Todd Rokita in "Parents' Bill of Rights: A Roadmap for Hoosier Parents and Caregivers to Exercise Their Legal Right to Direct Their Children's Education."

Teacher Freedom Rank

#25

Indiana ranks 25th in teacher freedom among the states. Twenty-seven percent of teachers in the state are alternatively certified, making their way into the classroom through routes other than a university-based college of education. Indiana does not, however, allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. More than two-thirds (67 percent) of school districts employ a "chief diversity officer," but the Hoosier State does not use Common Core tests. Indiana can improve its teacher freedom ranking by ending growth in non-teaching administrative staff, such as chief diversity officers, ending teacher certification requirements altogether, and allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure.

Return on Investment Rank

#31

Indiana ranks 31st overall in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Indiana spends the 41st-most per pupil among states, spending \$12,691 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Indiana ranks 12th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Hoosier State employs 0.71 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Indiana's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 3.7 percent of its state GDP. Indiana can improve its ROI ranking by stopping growth in non-teaching staff and lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 1	▼ 1	▲ 13	0	▼ 10

NOTE:

1. <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/files/Parents-Bill-of-Rights.pdf>