



Louisiana

Overall Rank

#18

Louisiana dropped out of the top ten in overall education freedom and now ranks #18. The state is in the top 20 in return on investment, but is in the middle of the pack in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#25

Louisiana ranks #25 for education choice, down six spots from 2022, as lawmakers in other states expanded education choice options in 2023, while officials in Louisiana did not. Louisiana does fairly well in allowing families to choose among private, charter, and district schools, but could do more to expand education choice. Louisiana generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Louisiana could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its existing private education choice policies, and eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools, including the state test mandate, price controls, and interference with schools' admissions standards. Louisiana could also improve its ranking by giving families a choice of traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

Transparency Rank

#26

Louisiana law already contains provisions¹ that allow parents to view public school curricula, but school district officials may charge a fee to families for fulfilling their request. State officials should not require taxpayers and families to pay to see public school instructional materials. Proposals rejecting the application of critical race theory's biased ideas or to create a parent bill of rights have not advanced in the state legislature.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#4

Louisiana ranks fourth among states for teacher freedom. A full 56 percent of its teachers are alternatively certified, making their way into the classroom through routes other than a traditional, university-based college of education. However, the Pelican State does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licenses with other states. Just 8 percent of districts in Louisiana with more than 15,000 students have "chief diversity officers," and the state does not use Common Core-aligned tests. To improve its teacher freedom score, Louisiana should allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure, or end certification requirements altogether, and continue to increase the opportunities available to aspiring teachers to enter the classroom.

Return on Investment Rank

#13

Louisiana ranks 13th overall in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Louisiana spends the 32nd-most per pupil among states, spending \$14,089 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Louisiana ranks 43rd in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Pelican State employs 0.95 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Louisiana's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 9.1 percent of its state GDP. Louisiana can improve its ROI ranking by improving academic outcomes on the NAEP and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

| OVERALL | EDUCATION CHOICE | TRANSPARENCY | TEACHER FREEDOM | RETURN ON INVESTMENT |
|---------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| ▼ 9 | ▼ 6 | ▼ 7 | ▼ 1 | ▲ 12 |

NOTE:

1. <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=920004>