



Massachusetts

Overall Rank

#47

Massachusetts remains ranked #47 in overall education freedom and is next to last in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#50

Massachusetts ranks #50 for education choice, the same as last year. Massachusetts could do much more to expand education choice. Massachusetts could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, making it easier for charter schools to open and operate, removing excessive regulations on homeschooling families, and giving families a choice of traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

Transparency Rank

#34

Massachusetts 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.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#33

Massachusetts ranks 33rd in teacher freedom among all states. Just 8 percent of Massachusetts teachers are alternatively certified, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Moreover, 60 percent of Massachusetts school districts with 15,000 or more students employ a “chief diversity officer.” However, the state does not use Common Core-aligned tests. The Bay State can improve its teacher freedom score by opening alternative routes to teacher certification, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure, or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether, and ending the practice of increasing non-teaching staff roles, particularly “chief diversity officers.”

Return on Investment Rank

#29

Massachusetts ranks 29th in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Massachusetts spends the eighth-most per pupil among states, spending \$18,768 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Massachusetts ranks first in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Bay State employs 1.20 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Massachusetts’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 7.8 percent of its state GDP. Massachusetts can improve its ROI ranking by reducing per-pupil spending and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
0	0	▲ 11	▼ 1	▲ 4