



Maryland

Overall Rank

#38

Maryland ranks #38 in education freedom. Like last year the state ranks near the bottom in transparency and teacher freedom.

Education Choice Rank

#36

Maryland ranks #36 for education choice. Maryland could do much more to expand education choice. Maryland generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Maryland 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 policy, and eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools. Maryland could also improve its ranking by 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

#40

Maryland 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

#38

The Old Line State ranks 38th in terms of teacher freedom. Just 14 percent of Maryland’s teachers made their way to the classroom through alternative certification routes and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. A full 86 percent of its school districts enrolling more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer.” Maryland does not use Common Core-aligned tests. In order to improve its teacher freedom score, Maryland should encourage additional pathways to the K-12 classroom, other than university-based colleges of education, allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure—or abolish K-12 teacher certification requirements altogether—and stop the proliferation on non-teaching staff bloat, including the hiring of chief diversity officers.

Return on Investment Rank

#33

Maryland ranks 33rd overall in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Maryland spends the 17th-most per pupil among states, spending \$16,542 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Maryland ranks 40th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Old Line State employs 1.03 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Maryland’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 5 percent of its state GDP. Maryland can improve its ROI ranking by lowering per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, and lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 10	▲ 9	▼ 2	▲ 12	▼ 3