



Minnesota

Overall Rank

#45

Minnesota slides down to #45 in overall education freedom. The state declined in every category, most notably a seven-spot drop in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#45

Minnesota ranks #45 for education choice, down seven spots from 2022, as lawmakers in other states expanded education choice options in 2023, while officials in Minnesota did not. Minnesota does fairly well in allowing families to choose among charter schools and district schools, but could do much more to expand education choice. Minnesota 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

#29

Minnesota lawmakers have a general provision that allows academic transparency. Minnesota¹ statutes say: “Each school district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or an adult student...” Lawmakers have not adopted a parent bill of rights or a proposal to reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#45

Minnesota ranks 45th in terms of teacher freedom. Although the Land of 10,000 Lakes does not use Common Core-aligned tests, just 6 percent of teachers in Minnesota found their way to the classroom through alternative certification routes, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Moreover, an estimated 86 percent of school districts in the state enrolling more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer.” Minnesota can improve its teacher freedom score by providing aspiring teachers with additional pathways to the K-12 classroom—or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether—allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure, and stopping the growth of non-teaching administrative staff, such as chief diversity officers.

Return on Investment Rank

#38

Minnesota ranks 38th in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Minnesota spends the 18th-most per pupil among states, spending \$16,401 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Minnesota ranks 17th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Land of 10,000 Lakes employs 0.84 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Minnesota’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 4.3 percent of its state GDP. Minnesota can improve its ROI ranking by limiting growth in per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, and stopping growth in non-teaching staff while also lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities. Minnesota can improve its ROI ranking by limiting growth in per-pupil spending and stopping growth in non-teaching staff, while also lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 6	▼ 7	▼ 1	▼ 3	▼ 7

NOTE:

1. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120B.20>