



New York

Overall Rank

#48

New York ranks #48 in overall education freedom. The state ranks in the bottom ten in three out of four categories.

Education Choice Rank

#49

New York ranks #49 for education choice, dropping three spots from last year, as lawmakers in other states expanded education choice options in 2023, while officials in New York did not. New York could improve its poor 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

#44

New York 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

#24

New York ranks 24th among states in terms of teacher freedom. Just 14 percent of teachers in the state are alternatively certified, and the Empire State does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Half of the state’s school districts with more than 15,000 students employ “chief diversity officers.” The state does not use Common Core-aligned tests. New York can improve its teacher freedom score by providing aspiring teachers more pathways into the K-12 classroom, beyond university-based colleges of education, or by ending teacher certification requirements altogether. The state should allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. And New York should stop the growth in non-teaching staff hires, including chief diversity officers.

Return on Investment Rank

#40

New York ranks 40th overall in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. New York spends the second-most per pupil among states, spending \$24,473 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. New York ranks 32nd in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Empire State employs 1.04 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. New York’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 2 percent of its state GDP. New York can improve its ROI ranking by reducing per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, and reducing its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

New York: One-Year Rank Changes (2022–2023)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 2	▼ 3	▲ 4	▼ 1	▲ 6