



Overall Rank

#29

Ohio ranks #29 in overall education freedom, up five spots from last year. The state now ranks #12 in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#12

Ohio ranks #12 for education choice. Ohio does exceptionally well in allowing families the freedom to choose among private, charter, and district schools but could do more to expand education choice. This year, Ohio expanded eligibility for its school voucher policy to all K-12 students. Ohio could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy and eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools, including price controls and interference with schools' admissions standards. Ohio could also improve its ranking by making it easier for charter schools to open and operate, and removing excessive regulations on homeschooling families.

Transparency Rank

#37

Ohio 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

#47

Ohio ranks 47th among states in terms of teacher freedom. Although Ohio does not use Common Core-aligned assessments, no teachers made their way to the classroom through alternative teacher certification options, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Moreover, 82 percent of Ohio school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a "chief diversity officer." The Buckeye State can improve its teacher freedom score by ending growth in non-teaching staff, including chief diversity officers, supporting and expanding alternative teacher certification programs—or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether—and allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states.

Return on Investment Rank

#47

Ohio ranks 47th overall in return on investment (ROI) in education spending. Ohio spends the 19th most per pupil among states, spending \$16,326 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Ohio ranks 14th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Buckeye State employs 0.45 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Ohio's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 7.7 percent of its state GDP. Ohio can improve its ROI ranking stopping its significant growth in non-teaching administrative staff, limiting growth in per-pupil spending, and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

| OVERALL | EDUCATION CHOICE | TRANSPARENCY | TEACHER FREEDOM | RETURN ON INVESTMENT |
|---------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| ▲ 5 | ▼ 5 | ▼ 2 | ▼ 3 | ▼ 2 |