



Oregon

Overall Rank

#51

Oregon ranks dead last in overall education freedom, tumbling 11 spots since last year to #51. The state ranks last in teacher freedom and #46 in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#46

Oregon ranks #46 for education choice, dropping five spots, as lawmakers in other states expanded education choice options in 2023, while officials in Oregon did not. Oregon does fairly well in allowing families to choose among charter schools but could do much more to expand education choice. Oregon 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

#25

Oregon lawmakers have neither adopted proposals that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools, nor addressed the threats to minor-age children from the teaching of “gender” in place of biological sex. State officials should consider such proposals along with provisions that increase academic transparency.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#51

Oregon ranks the lowest—51st—among states in terms of teacher freedom. Zero percent of teachers are alternatively certified, largely required to go through university-based colleges of education in order to enter the K-12 classroom. The Beaver State does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. A significant 71 percent of school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the state still uses Common Core-aligned tests. Oregon can improve its teacher freedom score by allowing alternative teacher certification options, full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states, or eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether. Oregon should also stop growth in non-teaching staff, particularly “chief diversity officers,” and should exit the Common Core-aligned assessments.

Return on Investment Rank

#39

Oregon ranks 39th overall in return on investment (ROI) in education spending. Oregon spends the 24th-most per pupil among states, spending \$15,523 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Oregon ranks 42nd in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Beaver State employs 0.76 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Oregon’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 8.7 percent of its state GDP. Oregon can improve its ROI ranking by improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, stopping the growth in non-teaching staff, and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 11	▼ 5	▼ 9	▼ 2	▼ 2