



# Wyoming

## Overall Rank

#34

Wyoming ranks #34 in overall education freedom and near the bottom at #44 in education choice. The state also ranks near the bottom at #41 in education choice.

## Education Choice Rank

#44

Wyoming ranks #44 for education choice, dropping one spot since last year, as lawmakers in other states expanded education choice options in 2023, while officials in Wyoming did not. Wyoming could do much more to expand education choice. Wyoming generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Wyoming could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, 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

#23

In 2017, Wyoming lawmakers approved a parent bill of rights.<sup>1</sup> Since then, Wyoming lawmakers have not adopted any other proposals to increase academic transparency or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

## Teacher Freedom Rank

#15 (tie)

Wyoming is tied for 15th place, along with Maine and North Dakota, for teacher freedom. No teachers in the Equality State made their way to the K-12 classroom through alternative teacher certification routes, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. However, no school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the state does not use Common Core-aligned tests. Wyoming can improve its teacher freedom score by enabling teachers to take alternative routes to the K-12 classroom rather than requiring them to go through university-based colleges of education in order to get certified. The state should allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states or eliminate certification requirements altogether.

## Return on Investment Rank

#41

Wyoming ranks 41st overall in return on investment (ROI) for education spending. Wyoming spends the sixth-most per pupil among states, spending \$19,882 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Wyoming ranks third in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Equality State employs 0.80 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Wyoming’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 6 percent of its state GDP. Wyoming can improve its ROI ranking by reducing per-pupil spending, stopping growth in non-teaching staff, and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

### Wyoming: One-Year Rank Changes (2022–2023)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 13	▼ 1	▼ 17	▲ 1	▲ 1

**NOTE:**

1. <https://wyoleg.gov/2017/Digest/HB0153.pdf>