



Alaska

Overall Rank

#40

Alaska ranks #40 in overall education freedom, with bottom-10 ranks in education choice and return on investment.

Education Choice Rank

#43

Alaska ranks 43rd for **education choice**, down one spot since 2023. Alaska does fairly well in empowering families to choose among district schools but could do more to expand education choice. Additionally, Alaska respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Alaska could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, making it easier for more charter schools to open and operate, and giving families more choices among traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

Transparency Rank

#29

Alaska ranks 29th in **academic transparency**. Alaska 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. In 2016, state officials adopted a parental bill of rights¹ that empowers parents to review K-12 instructional content. The law states that school policy must include procedures “providing a parent with an opportunity to review the content of an activity, class, performance standard, or program.”

Teacher Freedom Rank

#20

Alaska ranks 20th among all states in terms of **teacher freedom**. Zero percent of teachers entered the classroom through alternative teacher certification options, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of licensure for out-of-state teachers. Educators in Alaska are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. The state’s largest school district (only two have more than 15,000 students) employs a “chief diversity officer.” Alaska does not use Common Core-aligned tests and was one of just a handful of states to reject Common Core from its inception. Alaska can improve teacher freedom in the state by allowing alternative teacher certification and licensure reciprocity, or by ending certification requirements altogether, while ending the practice of hiring chief diversity officers and eliminating the Praxis exam requirement.

Return on Investment Rank

#46

Alaska ranks 46th for **return on investment (ROI)** in education spending. Alaska spends the 11th-most per pupil among states, spending \$20,255 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Alaska ranks 46th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. Moreover, the Last Frontier State employs 1.59 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Alaska’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 10.6 percent of its state GDP. To improve its return-on-investment ranking, Alaska should lower spending, improve academic outcomes on the NAEP, stop the growth in non-teaching staff, and address its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

Alaska: One-Year Rank Changes (2023–2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 1	▼ 1	▼ 1	▲ 11	0

NOTE:

1. <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/29?Root=HB%20156>