



Delaware

Overall Rank

#46

Delaware ranks #46 in education freedom, down two spots from 2023. The state also ranks dead last in teacher freedom.

Education Choice Rank

#40

Delaware ranks 40th for **education choice**, down one spot since 2023. Delaware does fairly well in empowering families to choose among district schools but could do much more to expand private education choice. Additionally, Delaware generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Delaware could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy and making it easier for more charter schools to open and operate.

Transparency Rank

#36

Delaware ranks 36th in **academic transparency**. Delaware lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools, or protect children from radical teaching about “gender.”

Teacher Freedom Rank

#51

The First State ranks dead last—51st—in **teacher freedom**. Thirty-one percent of teachers in Delaware are alternatively certified, but the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licenses. Educators in Delaware are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. All Delaware school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the state still uses Common Core-aligned tests. Delaware can improve its teacher freedom ranking by facilitating alternative routes into the classroom for aspiring teachers beyond university-based colleges of education, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licenses or ending certification requirements altogether, ending the practice of hiring non-teaching staff, such as chief diversity officers, eliminating the Praxis requirement, and exiting the Common Core-aligned tests.

Return on Investment Rank

#26

Delaware ranks 26th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Delaware spends the 15th-most per pupil among states, spending \$18,516 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Delaware ranks 48th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The First State employs 3.11 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Delaware’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 1.6 percent of its state GDP. Delaware can improve its ROI ranking by limiting growth in per-pupil spending and improving academic achievement on the NAEP.

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

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