



# Indiana

## Overall Rank

#14

Indiana ranks #14 in overall education freedom, falling from its #5 ranking in 2023. A sizable drop in the state’s teacher freedom ranking contributed to this lower overall ranking.

## Education Choice Rank

#3

Indiana ranks third for **education choice**. Indiana does exceptionally well in empowering families to choose among private, charter, and district schools as well as other learning environments. Additionally, Indiana offers K-12 education savings accounts (ESAs) that most families can use to customize the education of eligible students, and respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Indiana could improve its ranking by expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its existing private education choice policies, and eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools, including the state test mandate. Indiana could also improve its ranking by making it easier for more charter schools to open and operate.

## Transparency Rank

#18

Indiana ranks 18th on **academic transparency**. Indiana lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, create a parental bill of rights, or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools. Lawmakers should consider the proposals outlined<sup>1</sup> by state Attorney General Todd Rokita in “Parents’ Bill of Rights: A Roadmap for Hoosier Parents and Caregivers to Exercise Their Legal Right to Direct Their Children’s Education.”

## Teacher Freedom Rank

#48

Indiana ranks 48th in **teacher freedom**. Twenty-nine percent of teachers in the state are alternatively certified, making their way into the classroom through routes other than a university-based college of education. Indiana does not, however, allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Educators in Indiana are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. Two-thirds (67 percent) of school districts employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the Hoosier State uses Common Core-aligned tests. Indiana can improve its teacher freedom ranking by ending growth in non-teaching administrative staff, such as chief diversity officers, ending teacher certification requirements altogether, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure, eliminating the Praxis requirement, and by ending its use of Common Core assessments.

## Return on Investment Rank

#22

Indiana ranks 22nd in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Indiana spends the 41st-most per pupil among states, spending \$13,850 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Indiana ranks 12th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Hoosier State employs 2.19 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Indiana’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 2.9 percent of its state GDP. Indiana can improve its ROI ranking by stopping growth in non-teaching staff and continuing to lower its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

### Indiana: One-Year Rank Changes (2023–2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 9	0	▼ 4	▼ 23	▲ 9

**NOTE:**

1. <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/files/Parents-Bill-of-Rights.pdf>