



Massachusetts

Overall Rank

#44

Massachusetts remains at #44 in overall education freedom and is next to last in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#50

Massachusetts ranks 50th for **education choice**. Massachusetts could do much more to expand education choice. Massachusetts 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, removing excessive regulations on homeschooling families, and giving families more choices among traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

Transparency Rank

#30

Massachusetts ranks 30th in **academic transparency**. Massachusetts lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, create a parent bill of rights, or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#22

Massachusetts ranks 22nd in **teacher freedom**. Just 9 percent of Massachusetts teachers are alternatively certified, and the state does not allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in Massachusetts are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. Moreover, 60 percent of Massachusetts school districts with 15,000 or more students employ a “chief diversity officer.” However, the state does not use Common Core-aligned tests. The Bay State can improve its teacher freedom score by eliminating the Praxis requirement, opening alternative routes to teacher certification, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether, and ending the practice of increasing non-teaching staff roles, particularly chief diversity officers.

Return on Investment Rank

#41

Massachusetts ranks 41st in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Massachusetts spends the seventh-most per pupil among states, spending \$21,381 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Massachusetts ranks first in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Bay State employs 2.17 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Massachusetts’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 5.8 percent of its state GDP. Massachusetts can improve its ROI ranking by reducing per-pupil spending and addressing its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 3	0	▲ 4	▲ 11	▼ 12