



Maryland

Overall Rank

#35

Maryland ranks #35 in education freedom. Like the previous year, it ranks near the bottom in transparency and return on investment.

Education Choice Rank

#35

Maryland ranks 35th for **education choice**. Maryland could do much more to expand education choice. Maryland generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Maryland could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its existing private education choice policy, and eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools. Maryland could also improve its ranking by 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

#38

Maryland ranks 38th on **academic transparency**. Maryland 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.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#33

The Old Line State ranks 33rd in **teacher freedom**. Just 15 percent of Maryland’s teachers made their way to the classroom through alternative certification routes and the state does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Educators in Maryland are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. A full 93 percent of its school districts enrolling more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer.” Maryland does not use Common Core-aligned tests. To improve its teacher freedom score, Maryland should encourage additional pathways to the K-12 classroom, other than university-based colleges of education, allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure or abolish K-12 teacher certification requirements altogether, end the bloat of non-teaching staff, including the hiring of chief diversity officers, and eliminate the Praxis test requirement.

Return on Investment Rank

#38

Maryland ranks 38th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Maryland spends the 19th-most per pupil among states, spending \$17,664 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Maryland ranks 40th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Old Line State employs 2.13 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Maryland’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 4.2 percent of its state GDP. Maryland can improve its ROI ranking by lowering per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, and lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 3	▲ 1	▲ 2	▲ 5	▼ 5