



Maine

Overall Rank

#45

Maine drops to #45 in overall education freedom, due primarily to a 24-spot decline in teacher freedom.

Education Choice Rank

#32

Maine ranks 32nd for **education choice**, down five spots since 2023. Maine does fairly well in empowering families to choose among private schools in areas that lack district schools but could do more to expand education choice. Maine could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its private education choice policy, and eliminating unnecessary regulations on participating private schools, including the state test mandate, price controls, and interference with schools' admissions standards. Maine could also improve its ranking by 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

#49

Maine ranks 49th in **academic transparency**. Maine lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, to create a parental bill of rights, or to reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#39

Maine is ranked 39th for **teacher freedom**. Zero teachers in the state are alternatively certified, and Maine does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure. Educators in Maine are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. The state does not have any school districts with more than 15,000 students, therefore a "chief diversity officer" is not recorded. Maine does not use Common Core-aligned assessments. The Pine Tree State can improve its teacher freedom ranking by enabling prospective teachers to enter the K-12 classroom through alternative certification routes beyond university-based colleges of education, or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether, ending the Praxis mandate, and by allowing full reciprocity of teacher licenses with other states.

Return on Investment Rank

#45

Maine ranks 45th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Maine spends the eighth-most per pupil among states, spending \$20,751 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Maine ranks 34th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Pine Tree State employs 1.54 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Maine's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 3.2 percent of its state GDP. Maine can improve its ROI ranking by reducing per-pupil spending, improving outcomes on the NAEP, stopping growth in non-teaching staff, and continuing to lower its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

Maine: One-Year Rank Changes (2023-2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 10	▼ 5	0	▼ 24	▼ 1