



# Minnesota

## Overall Rank

#39

Minnesota ranks #39 in overall education freedom. The state improved by 13 spots on teacher freedom but ranks poorly on education choice and return on investment.

## Education Choice Rank

#44

Minnesota ranks 44th for **education choice**, down seven spots since 2022. Minnesota does fairly well in empowering families to choose among charter and district schools but could do much more to expand education choice. Minnesota 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

#26

Minnesota ranks 26th in **academic transparency**. Minnesota lawmakers have a general provision that allows academic transparency. Minnesota's statutes say: "Each school district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or an adult student..." Lawmakers have not adopted a parental bill of rights or a proposal to reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

## Teacher Freedom Rank

#32

Minnesota ranks 32nd for **teacher freedom**. Although the North Star State does not use Common Core-aligned tests, just 7 percent of teachers in Minnesota found their way to the classroom through alternative certification routes, and the state does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in Minnesota are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. Moreover, an estimated 86 percent of school districts in the state enrolling more than 15,000 students employ a "chief diversity officer." Minnesota can improve its teacher freedom score by providing aspiring teachers with additional pathways to the K-12 classroom or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure, and stopping the growth of non-teaching administrative staff, such as chief diversity officers.

## Return on Investment Rank

#42

Minnesota ranks 42nd in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Minnesota spends the 17th-most per pupil among states, spending \$17,882 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Minnesota ranks 17th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Land of 10,000 Lakes employs 1.74 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Minnesota's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 5 percent of its state GDP. Minnesota can improve its ROI ranking by limiting growth in per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, and stopping growth in non-teaching staff while also lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

### Minnesota: One-Year Rank Changes (2023-2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 6	▲ 1	▲ 3	▲ 13	▼ 4

**NOTE:**

- <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120B.20>