



Oregon

Overall Rank

#51

Oregon ranks dead last in overall education freedom, holding the #51 spot for the second consecutive year. The state ranks #50 in teacher freedom and #47 in education choice.

Education Choice Rank

#47

Oregon ranks 47th for **education choice**, down one spot since 2023. Oregon does fairly well in empowering families to choose among charter schools but could do much more to expand education choice. Oregon 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 homeschool families, and giving families more choices among traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

Transparency Rank

#31

Oregon ranks 31st in **academic transparency**. Oregon lawmakers have neither adopted proposals that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools, nor addressed the threats to minors from the teaching of “gender” in place of biological sex. State officials should consider such proposals along with provisions that increase academic transparency.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#50

Oregon ranks 50th in **teacher freedom**. Zero percent of teachers are alternatively certified, largely required to go through university-based colleges of education in order to enter the K-12 classroom. The Beaver State does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in Oregon are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. A significant 86 percent of school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” and the state still uses Common Core-aligned tests. Oregon can improve its teacher freedom score by allowing alternative teacher certification options, full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states, or eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether. Oregon should also stop requiring the Praxis exam and limit growth in non-teaching staff, particularly chief diversity officers, and should exit the Common Core-aligned assessments.

Return on Investment Rank

#35

Oregon ranks 35th in **return on investment (ROI)** in education spending. Oregon spends the 21st-most per pupil among states, spending \$17,374 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Oregon ranks 42nd in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Beaver State employs 2.00 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Oregon’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 5.1 percent of its state GDP. Oregon can improve its ROI ranking by improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, stopping the growth in non-teaching staff, and reducing per-pupil spending.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
0	▼ 1	▼ 6	▲ 1	▲ 4