



Wyoming

Overall Rank #25

Wyoming ranks #25 in education freedom, nine spots higher than the previous year's rankings. The state rose 24 spots in education choice, making more improvement in that category than any other state.

Education Choice Rank #21

Wyoming ranks 21st for **education choice**, up 23 spots since 2023 due in large part to its enactment of a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy this year. Wyoming generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Wyoming could improve its ranking by expanding eligibility for its K-12 ESA policy, 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 #25

Wyoming ranks 25th in **academic transparency**. In 2017, Wyoming lawmakers approved a parental bill of rights.¹ Since then, Wyoming lawmakers have not adopted any other proposals to increase academic transparency or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

Teacher Freedom Rank #8

Wyoming ranks eighth in **teacher freedom**. No teachers in the Equality State made their way to the K-12 classroom through alternative teacher certification routes, and the state does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in Wyoming are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. No school districts with more than 15,000 students employ a "chief diversity officer," and the state does not use Common Core-aligned tests. Wyoming can improve its teacher freedom score by enabling teachers to take alternative routes to the K-12 classroom rather than requiring them to go through university-based colleges of education in get certified, along with eliminating the Praxis test mandate. The state should allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states or eliminate certification requirements altogether.

Return on Investment Rank #40

Wyoming ranks 40th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Wyoming spends the sixth-most per pupil among states, spending \$21,793 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Wyoming ranks third in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Equality State employs 1.92 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Wyoming's unfunded teacher pension liability represents 5.8 percent of its state GDP. Wyoming can improve its ROI ranking by reducing per-pupil spending, stopping growth in non-teaching staff, and addressing its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 9	▲ 23	▼ 2	▲ 7	▲ 1

NOTE:

1. <https://wyoleg.gov/2017/Digest/HB0153.pdf>