



# Nebraska

## Overall Rank

#22

Nebraska has made modest improvements since last year, moving three spots to #22. The state ranks #20 in return on investment and #22 in educational choice.

## Education Choice Rank

#22

Nebraska ranks 22nd for **education choice**. Nebraska does fairly well in empowering families to choose among private and district schools but could do more to expand education choice. Additionally, Nebraska generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Nebraska could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, boosting eligibility for and enrollment in its private school choice policy, and enacting a charter school policy.

## Transparency Rank

#21

Nebraska ranks 21st in **academic transparency**. Nebraska 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

#25

Nebraska ranks 25th for **teacher freedom**. Just 4 percent of teachers in the state are alternatively certified, and Nebraska does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in Nebraska are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. Approximately two-thirds (67 percent) of school districts in the state with more than 15,000 students employ a “chief diversity officer,” however, only a handful of districts enroll that many students. The Cornhusker State does not use Common Core-aligned tests. Nebraska can improve its teacher freedom score by significantly increasing the percentage of aspiring teachers who have access to alternative teacher certification routes to the K-12 classroom or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether, eliminating the Praxis mandate, and by allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure.

## Return on Investment Rank

#20

Nebraska ranks 20th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Nebraska spends the 16th-most per pupil among states, spending \$18,126 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Nebraska ranks eighth in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Cornhusker State employs 2.61 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Nebraska’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 0.6 percent of its state GDP. Nebraska can improve its ROI ranking by limiting growth in per-pupil spending and limiting growth in non-teaching staff.

### Nebraska: One-Year Rank Changes (2023–2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 3	0	0	▲ 11	▼ 1