



New Mexico

Overall Rank

#33

New Mexico ranks #33 in overall education freedom. The state again ranks near the bottom in transparency (#45).

Education Choice Rank

#42

New Mexico ranks 42nd for **education choice**, down one spot since 2023. New Mexico does fairly well in empowering families to choose among charter and district schools but could do much more to expand education choice. New Mexico generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. New Mexico could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy and making it easier for more charter schools to open and operate.

Transparency Rank

#45

New Mexico ranks 45th in **academic transparency**. New Mexico lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, create a parent bill of rights, or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#14

New Mexico ranks 14th in **teacher freedom**. Sixty percent of teachers are alternatively certified. New Mexico does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states, and one-third (33 percent) of its school districts that enroll more than 15,000 students have a “chief diversity officer.” Educators in New Mexico are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. The state no longer uses prescriptive Common Core-aligned tests. The Land of Enchantment can improve its teacher freedom score by ending the Praxis test mandate, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states or by ending teacher certification requirements altogether, and ending growth in non-teaching staff, such as chief diversity officers.

Return on Investment Rank

#29

New Mexico ranks 29th in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. New Mexico spends the 32nd-most per pupil among states, spending \$15,191 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. New Mexico ranks dead last—51st—in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Land of Enchantment employs 3.28 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. New Mexico’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 12.8 percent of its state GDP. New Mexico can improve its ROI ranking by improving academic outcomes on the NAEP and addressing its considerable unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

New Mexico: One-Year Rank Changes (2023–2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▲ 6	▼ 1	0	▲ 15	▲ 8