



Nevada

Overall Rank

#28

Nevada falls five spots to #28 in overall education freedom. The state ranks near the bottom in teacher freedom and near the top in return on investment.

Education Choice Rank

#28

Nevada ranks 28th for **education choice**, down four spots since 2023. Nevada does fairly well in empowering families to choose among private and charter schools but could do much more to expand education choice. Additionally, Nevada generally respects the autonomy of homeschooling families. Nevada could improve its ranking by expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its existing private education choice policies, 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

#19

Nevada ranks 19th in **academic transparency**. Nevada lawmakers adopted a parental bill of rights¹ in 2013. But state officials 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 make such proposals along with provisions that increase academic transparency.

Teacher Freedom Rank

#44

The Silver State ranks 44th for **teacher freedom**. Twenty-three percent of teachers in Nevada came to the classroom through alternative pathways, becoming certified to teach through something other than a university-based college of education. The state also has full reciprocity of teacher licenses with other states. Educators in Nevada are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. Nevada’s only school district with more than 15,000 students (Clark County) employs a “chief diversity officer.” The state still uses Common Core-aligned tests. Nevada can improve its teacher freedom score by ending its use of Common Core assessments and stopping the growth in non-teaching staff, such as chief diversity officers. It should also continue to foster alternative pathways to the K-12 classroom or eliminate teacher certification requirements altogether, and it should eliminate the Praxis test mandate.

Return on Investment Rank

#10

Nevada ranks tenth in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Nevada spends the 46th-most (meaning the fifth-least) per pupil among states, spending \$12,655 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Nevada ranks 40th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Silver State employs 2.35 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Nevada’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 8.4 percent of its state GDP. Nevada can improve its ROI ranking by improving academic outcomes on the NAEP and addressing its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 5	▼ 4	0	▼ 2	▼ 7

NOTE:

1. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/77th2013/Reports/history.cfm?ID=760>