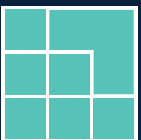


3RD EDITION

2026 ALEC INDEX OF
**STATE
EDUCATION
FREEDOM**

A 50-State Guide to Parental Empowerment



ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

The ALEC Index of State Education Freedom was published by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) as part of its mission to increase individual liberty, prosperity, and the well-being of all Americans by advancing and promoting the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism.

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INTRODUCTION & OVERALL RANKINGS



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate America's Semiquincentennial, we find ourselves reflecting on the distinct virtues that have sustained our Republic for the past 250 years. There is perhaps no policy area where the spirit of 1776 is more vibrant or necessary than education. Just as the founders sought to liberate the colonies from distant, centralized control, the education freedom movement is doing the same by returning authority to parents and allowing them to choose the best school suited to their child's needs.

The 2026 Index of State Education Freedom ranks each of the 50 states based on how well they provide different educational options to families. There are five categories that each state is assessed in: student-centered funding, charter schools, home schools, virtual schools, and open enrollment. Our goal is to not only make parents and policymakers aware of the education freedom environment in their state, but to also highlight what changes they can implement to make more learning options available to families.

For the third time in a row, Florida earns the #1 spot in the rankings and is the only state to earn an A+ overall grade. In addition, Texas climbs 15 spots to #9, and Wyoming climbs 11 spots to #17 after both passed legislation to create universal education freedom programs in their state.

But this year's rankings also show that there is much work to be done. Louisiana falls 24 spots to #33 after the legislature failed to provide funding for the LA GATOR Scholarship program. Nebraska also experienced a precipitous drop, falling 18 spots to #50 after the Opportunity Scholarship Program was repealed despite providing 5,500 scholarships to the state's neediest families.

Throughout the year, as we celebrate America's 250th birthday, we must remain committed to the idea that education, no matter its form, is an inherent right for all children throughout the country.

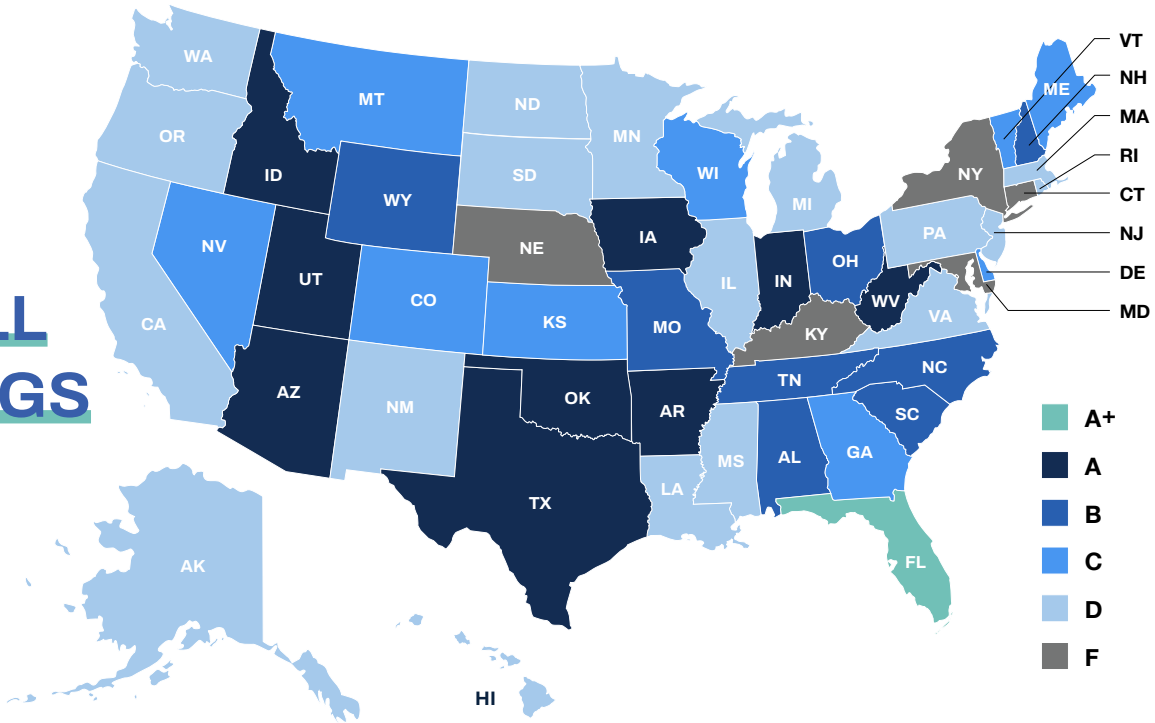
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EDITOR'S NOTE:

This publication reflects all programs and policies that were signed into law as of June 1st, 2025. All programs passed after this date will be reflected in the next iteration of this publication.

OVERALL
RANKINGS



2026 RANK	STATE	2025 RANK	TOTAL	GRADE
1	Florida	1	94.37	A+
2	Arizona	2	89.12	A
3	Arkansas	3	86.37	A
4	Iowa	5	82.63	A
5	West Virginia	6	76.71	A
6	Indiana	7	75.97	A-
7	Utah	8	72.90	A-
8	Oklahoma	4	71.68	A-
9	Texas	24	65.71	A-
10	Idaho	18	64.99	A-
11	Ohio	10	64.96	B+
12	Alabama	11	64.28	B+
13	North Carolina	12	59.63	B+
14	South Carolina	13	56.40	B
15	New Hampshire	15	54.84	B
16	Tennessee	16	48.53	B-
17	Wyoming	28	48.42	B-
18	Missouri	14	44.01	B-
19	Georgia	17	42.78	C+
20	Montana	23	42.28	C+
21	Kansas	27	41.85	C
22	Colorado	19	41.38	C
23	Maine	30	39.93	C
24	Wisconsin	20	39.90	C-
25	Nevada	22	37.47	C-

2026 RANK	STATE	2025 RANK	TOTAL	GRADE
26	Vermont	29	33.25	C-
27	Delaware	34	33.07	C-
28	Mississippi	21	32.74	D
29	Michigan	26	32.72	D
30	Oregon	48	32.52	D
31	California	33	31.66	D
32	Pennsylvania	37	31.11	D
33	Louisiana	9	30.98	D
34	South Dakota	25	29.25	D
35	Rhode Island	47	27.45	D
36	North Dakota	45	25.73	D
37	Virginia	39	25.65	D
38	Hawaii	41	24.72	D
39	Washington	43	24.48	D
40	Minnesota	31	24.47	D
41	Alaska	35	23.82	D
42	New Jersey	42	23.55	D
43	New Mexico	44	22.91	D
44	Illinois	38	22.62	D
45	Massachusetts	49	22.31	D
46	Connecticut	40	20.79	F
47	Maryland	36	20.73	F
48	Kentucky	46	19.54	F
49	New York	50	13.38	F
50	Nebraska	32	12.75	F

CHAPTER 1:

Student-Centered Funding Programs



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

CHAPTER 1:

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

Student-centered funding programs are the core of education freedom. Rather than simply allocating state education dollars to public schools based on enrollment figures, these programs allow dollars to follow a student to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Data for this section comes from [EdChoice](#).

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

The gold-standard of student-centered funding programs is education scholarship accounts (ESAs). These programs place state education dollars into an account that parents can use to pay for a wide variety of approved education expenses. These expenses typically include tuition, standardized testing fees, school uniforms, textbooks, therapies for students with special needs, and more. Four states, including New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming, passed universal ESA programs in 2025. In total, 12 states have passed legislation to create a universal ESA program.

Texas-Sized Education Freedom

In his 2023 State of the State address, Gov. Greg Abbott [told](#) the Texas legislature that “it’s time to provide every parent with the ability to choose the best education option for their child.” While the legislature initially balked at his call to provide ESAs to all Texas students, Gov. Abbott stood strong. For the next two years, he would demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Texas families and continue to make education freedom his number one priority.

His hard work alongside the leadership of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dustin Burrows, Senate President Pro Tem Brandon Creighton, and House Public Education Committee Chair Brad Buckley paid off in 2025. Thanks to this group of leaders, the legislature passed SB 2, which creates a universal ESA program with an initial \$1 billion in funding. This will be the largest education freedom program anywhere in the country.

VOUCHERS

Voucher programs provide state education funding either directly to a nonpublic school or to a parent in the form of a voucher. These funds can then be spent on a student’s tuition costs at the nonpublic school. Three states currently offer universal voucher programs, including Indiana, which expanded its voucher program to all students in 2025, North Carolina, and Ohio.

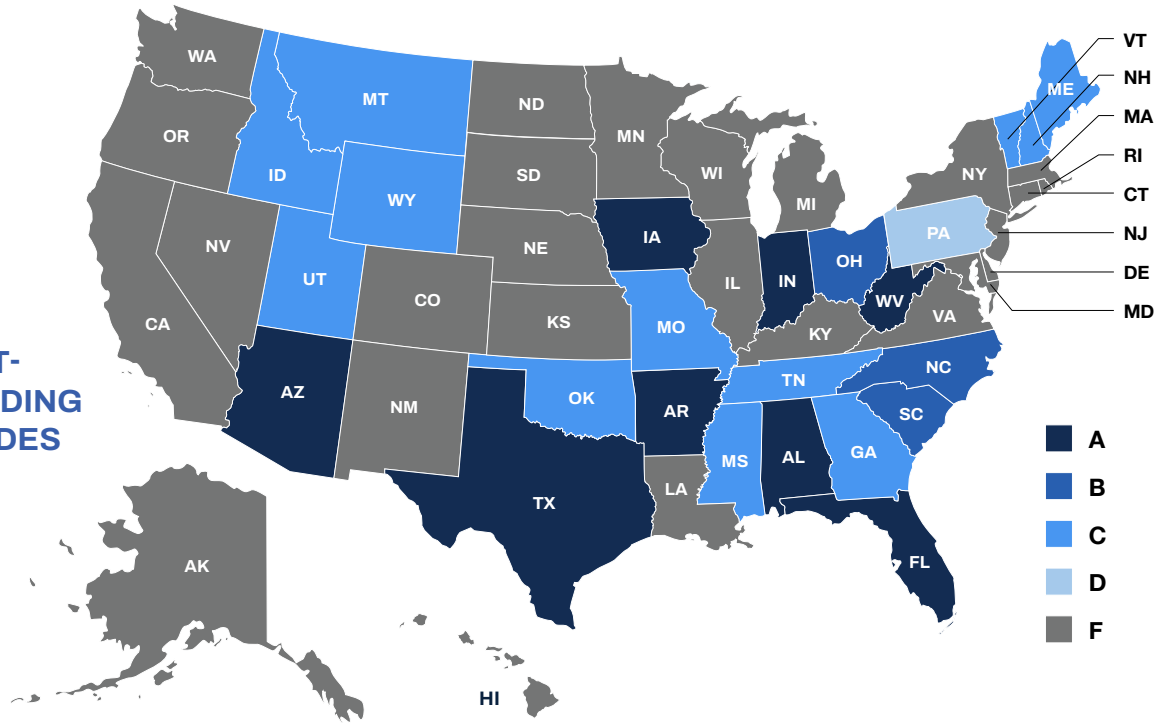
REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

Refundable tax credits provide a dollar-for-dollar reduction in total tax liability for parents who spend money on approved educational expenses. Crucially, parents are able to claim these credits even if doing so exceeds their total tax liability. In these situations, the government will “refund” the excess portion to the parent. Two states offer refundable tax credits to all students, including Idaho, which created this program in 2025, and Oklahoma.

TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Tax-credit scholarship programs provide a full or partial credit for donations to eligible scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships to eligible students in accordance with the program. In some cases, these scholarships can cover a variety of approved educational expenses. In others, scholarships can only be provided for tuition costs. Four states offer these programs to all students, including Arizona, Indiana, Montana, and Ohio.

STATE STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAM GRADES



RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
1	Arizona	40	A
	Florida	40	A
3	West Virginia	39	A
4	Iowa	38	A
5	Alabama	37.5	A
	Arkansas	37.5	A
7	Indiana	35	A
	Texas	35	A
9	Ohio	34.5	B
10	North Carolina	32	B
11	South Carolina	29	B
12	New Hampshire	22.5	C
13	Tennessee	21.5	C
14	Utah	21	C
15	Wyoming	20	C
16	Oklahoma	19	C
	Vermont	19	C
18	Maine	17	C
19	Georgia	16	C
	Missouri	16	C
21	Montana	15.5	C
22	Idaho	15	C
	Mississippi	15	C
24	Pennsylvania	11.5	D
25	Louisiana	5	F

RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
	Nevada	5	F
	South Dakota	5	F
	Wisconsin	5	F
29	Rhode Island	4	F
	Virginia	4	F
31	Kansas	3	F
32	Maryland	2	F
33	Alaska	0	F
	California	0	F
	Colorado	0	F
	Connecticut	0	F
	Delaware	0	F
	Hawaii	0	F
	Illinois	0	F
	Kentucky	0	F
	Massachusetts	0	F
	Michigan	0	F
	Minnesota	0	F
	Nebraska	0	F
	New Jersey	0	F
	New Mexico	0	F
	New York	0	F
	North Dakota	0	F
	Oregon	0	F
	Washington	0	F

CHAPTER 2:

Charter Schools



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

CHAPTER 2:

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools that operate without the regulations given to traditional public schools. In exchange for this freedom to innovate, charter schools commit to obtaining specific learning goals. So long as these goals are met, the charter school can continue to operate. A state earns top marks in this category when the growth of charters is not capped, when a universal and/or non-district authorizer is available, and when charter schools receive similar funding to their traditional public-school counterparts. These rankings are based on the Center for Education Reform's 2025 [National Charter School Law Rankings & Scorecard](#).

In 2025, North Dakota became the 47th state to allow charter schools. The legislature passed a robust law that allows the North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction to authorize charter schools. The law also does not cap the number of charter schools that can operate in the state and provides them with equal per-student funding compared to traditional public schools. Just three states still do not permit charter schools, including Nebraska, South Dakota, and Vermont.

AUTHORIZATION

States should have multiple authorizing entities for charter school applications. For example, Oregon's charter school law only allows local school districts to authorize charter applications, while Arizona's law allows universities, local school districts, and the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools to authorize charter applications. This means that a charter applicant in Arizona has more pathways to obtain approval, while an applicant in Oregon is at the mercy of the local school district.

GROWTH

State law should never place arbitrary caps on the number of charter schools that can operate at a given time or the number of students that they can serve. These caps limit educational options for families and prevent successful charter schools from expanding to serve more students.

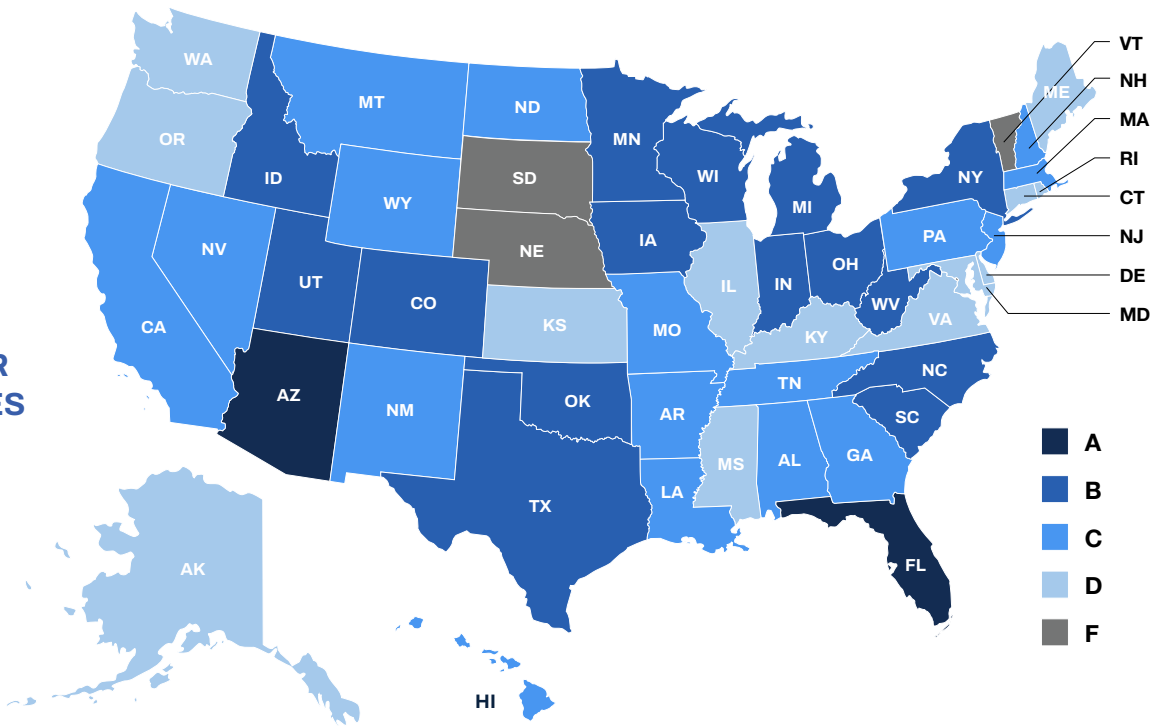
OPERATIONS

At their core, charter schools are public schools that have been granted the flexibility to innovate and find new, better ways of teaching and learning. In exchange for this flexibility, charter schools must operate and achieve the goals stated within their charter. State charter school laws should exempt charter schools from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools.

EQUITY

Despite being public schools, charter schools in many states are not entitled to similar funding that is provided to traditional public schools. In addition, charter schools often face major problems with finding and paying for adequate facilities to operate in. States should ensure that charter schools receive similar funding to their traditional counterparts while also ensuring that charter schools have access to financing pathways that make it easier for them to pay for the costs of maintaining their school facilities.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL GRADES



RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
1	Florida	11.87	A
2	Arizona	11.87	A
3	Indiana	10.97	B
4	Michigan	10.97	B
5	Minnesota	10.97	B
6	Idaho	9.74	B
7	New York	9.63	B
8	North Carolina	9.63	B
9	Colorado	9.63	B
10	Iowa	9.63	B
11	Wisconsin	9.40	B
12	South Carolina	9.40	B
13	Utah	9.40	B
14	Oklahoma	9.18	B
15	Texas	8.96	B
16	West Virginia	8.96	B
17	Ohio	8.96	B
18	Louisiana	8.73	C
19	North Dakota	8.73	C
20	Arkansas	8.62	C
21	Missouri	8.51	C
22	Georgia	8.28	C
23	Tennessee	8.28	C
24	Montana	8.28	C
25	Wyoming	8.17	C

RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
26	Massachusetts	8.06	C
27	New Hampshire	7.84	C
28	Nevada	7.72	C
29	Pennsylvania	7.61	C
30	Alabama	7.28	C
31	California	7.16	C
32	New Mexico	7.16	C
33	New Jersey	7.05	C
34	Hawaii	6.72	C
35	Mississippi	6.49	D
36	Oregon	6.27	D
37	Kentucky	6.04	D
38	Delaware	5.82	D
39	Alaska	5.82	D
40	Kansas	5.60	D
41	Illinois	5.37	D
42	Virginia	5.15	D
43	Connecticut	5.04	D
44	Maine	4.93	D
45	Rhode Island	4.70	D
46	Maryland	4.48	D
47	Washington	4.48	D
48	Nebraska	0	F
	South Dakota	0	F
	Vermont	0	F

CHAPTER 3:

Homeschooling



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

CHAPTER 3:

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is perhaps the most customizable and tailored approach to learning for students. Thanks to its flexibility, home-schooled students receive a unique educational experience that is parent-led and primarily home-based. State laws should allow these parents maximum flexibility to teach their students in the best manner possible by minimizing burdensome regulations. States earn an “A” when parents are not required to notify their school district that they are homeschooling. In addition, regulations that can impede the homeschooling experience, like testing and academic requirements, are not present. These rankings are based on data from the [Home School Legal Defense Association](#).

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Many states have laws in place that require parents to annually notify the government of their intent to homeschool. Parents should never need to ask the government’s permission to homeschool, nor should they be required to notify the government on a regular basis of their decision to do so.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Parents must always be able to teach their own kids when homeschooling. While often well-intentioned, many states have laws that require homeschool teachers to possess certain qualifications or credentials. Unfortunately, parents who do not meet these requirements can find themselves in a position where they are not legally allowed to teach their own children. States should strive to ensure that parents are never put in this position or subjected to qualification requirements when homeschooling their own children.

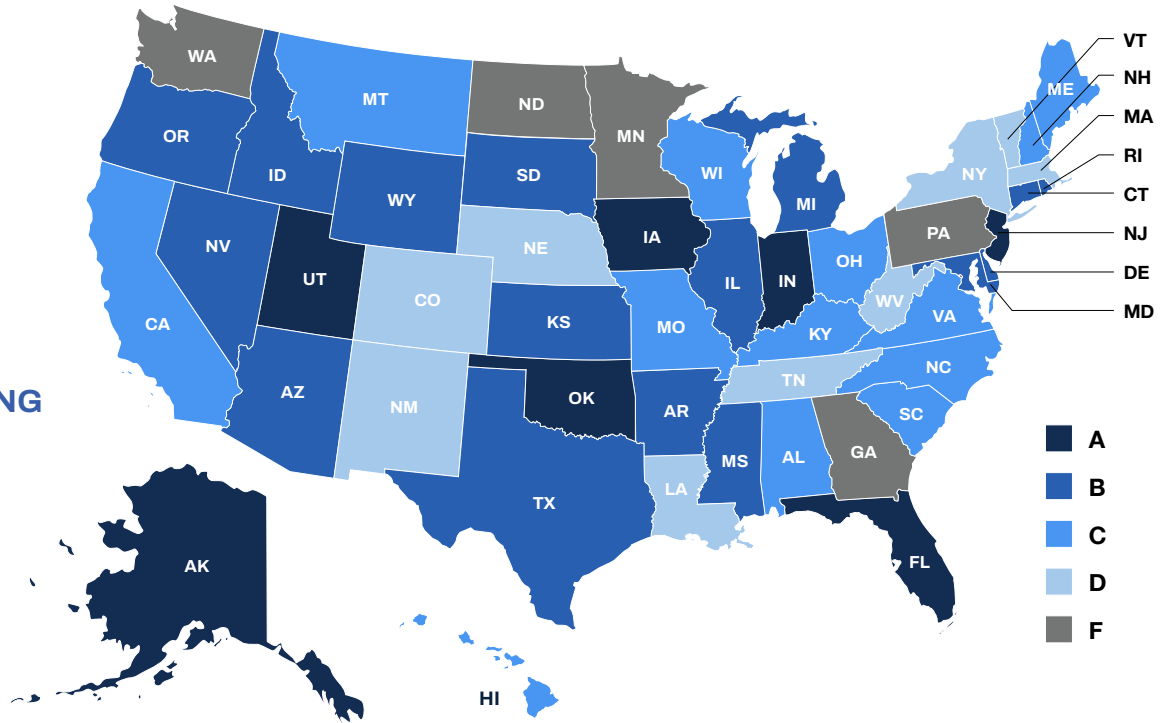
STATE MANDATED SUBJECTS

Many families choose to homeschool because they want to customize their child’s education and tailor it in a way that meets their needs best. Requiring that certain subjects be taught can interfere with this. State laws should let parents decide what subjects their students will be taught.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

States should never subject homeschooling families to standardized assessment requirements. These assessments are designed to be administered to traditional public school students who are receiving a specific amount of instruction in a specific number of subject areas. Since homeschooling families shouldn’t be required to follow these same instruction patterns, standardized assessments cannot accurately reflect the quality of homeschooling instruction. State laws should never require standardized assessments for homeschooling families.

STATE HOMESCHOOLING GRADES



RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
1	Alaska	15	A
	Florida	15	A
	Indiana	15	A
	Iowa	15	A
	New Jersey	15	A
	Oklahoma	15	A
	Utah	15	A
8	Arizona	11.25	B
	Arkansas	11.25	B
	Connecticut	11.25	B
	Delaware	11.25	B
	Idaho	11.25	B
	Illinois	11.25	B
	Kansas	11.25	B
	Maryland	11.25	B
	Michigan	11.25	B
	Mississippi	11.25	B
	Nevada	11.25	B
	Oregon	11.25	B
	Rhode Island	11.25	B
	South Dakota	11.25	B
	Texas	11.25	B
	Wyoming	11.25	B
24	Alabama	7.5	C
	California	7.5	C

RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
	Hawaii	7.5	C
	Kentucky	7.5	C
	Maine	7.5	C
	Missouri	7.5	C
	Montana	7.5	C
	New Hampshire	7.5	C
	North Carolina	7.5	C
	Ohio	7.5	C
	South Carolina	7.5	C
	Virginia	7.5	C
	Wisconsin	7.5	C
37	Colorado	3.75	D
	Louisiana	3.75	D
	Massachusetts	3.75	D
	Nebraska	3.75	D
	New Mexico	3.75	D
	New York	3.75	D
	Tennessee	3.75	D
	Vermont	3.75	D
	West Virginia	3.75	D
46	Georgia	0	F
	Minnesota	0	F
	North Dakota	0	F
	Pennsylvania	0	F
	Washington	0	F

CHAPTER 4:

Virtual Schools



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

CHAPTER 4:

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

Virtual schools offer online classrooms where students receive instruction from teachers who are certified in online pedagogy. The software used in these virtual schools is tailored for an online learning environment. The best states for virtual schooling will have virtual options available to students statewide and across school districts. These states also ensure that virtual school students can take their state assessments virtually. These rankings are based on ALEC's assessment of state statutes and available virtual school programs.

STATEWIDE VIRTUAL SCHOOL OPTION

Policymakers should aim to ensure that virtual schools can legally serve students anywhere in their state. This is the simplest and most direct way to guarantee that any student can attend a virtual school.

VIRTUAL COURSE REPOSITORY

Virtual course repositories are a centralized database of virtual courses that any student or school district can access and utilize. A good example of this is Alabama's ACCESS Program (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide), which operates as a one-stop-shop for students and school districts to browse a virtual course catalog that includes classes in a variety of subject areas like fine arts, world languages, math, english, science, and more.

VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

Virtual charters operate free from the regulations and laws that regular virtual public schools are subjected to. In exchange for this freedom and flexibility, virtual charters must meet strict performance targets specified in their charter. State laws should ensure that virtual charter schools are permitted in addition to traditional virtual schools.

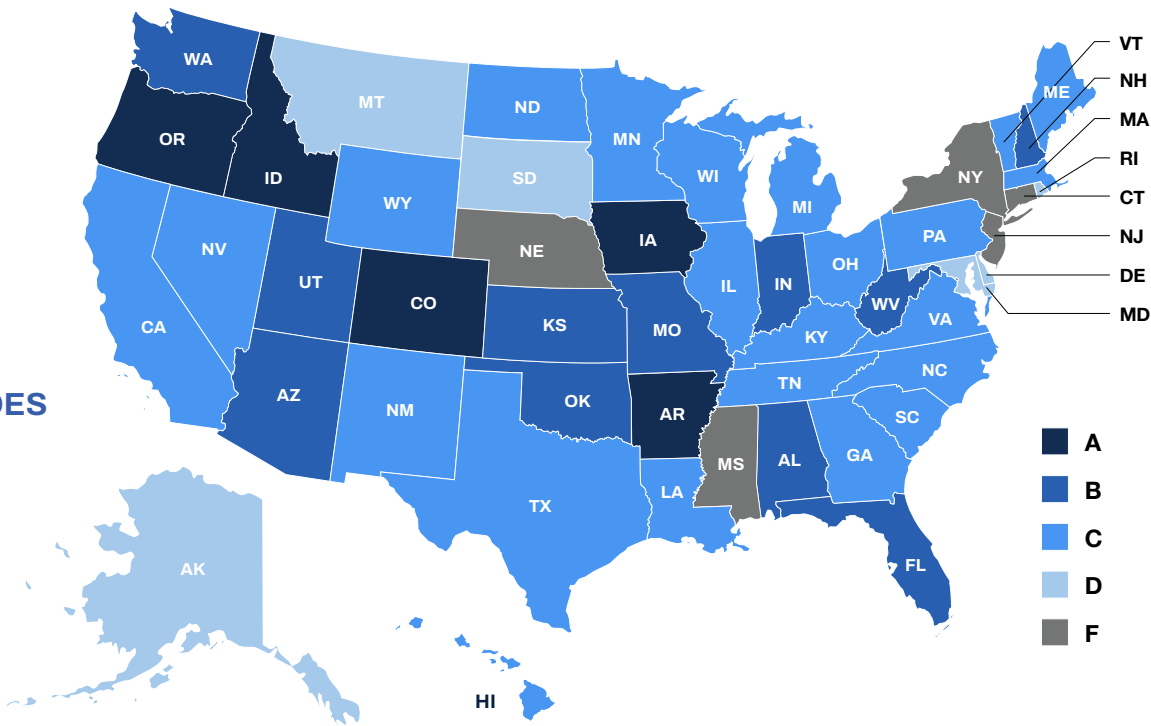
VIRTUAL SCHOOLS OPERATED BY MULTIPLE PUBLIC-SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Multi-district virtual schools allow public school districts to combine their resources and operate virtual options for a greater number of students. States should strive to create as many pathways as possible for virtual schools to operate, whether that be through a statewide option, a single-district option, or a multi-district option.

ABILITY OF VIRTUAL STUDENTS TO TAKE STATE ASSESSMENTS VIRTUALLY

An often-overlooked part of virtual schooling is what happens when it comes time for state assessments. In far too many states, virtual students are forced to take these assessments in person at a testing facility or public school. Requiring these students to take their state assessments in a manner that is not consistent with how they have been learning can have a negative effect on their performance, not to mention that some students may have trouble finding reasonable in-person accommodations.

STATE VIRTUAL SCHOOLS GRADES



RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
1	Arkansas	15	A
	Colorado	15	A
	Idaho	15	A
	Iowa	15	A
	Oregon	15	A
6	Florida	13.5	B
	Oklahoma	13.5	B
	Utah	13.5	B
9	Alabama	12	B
	Arizona	12	B
	Kansas	12	B
	Missouri	12	B
	New Hampshire	12	B
	Washington	12	B
	Indiana	12	B
	West Virginia	12	B
16	Georgia	10.5	C
	Louisiana	10.5	C
	Maine	10.5	C
	Michigan	10.5	C
	Minnesota	10.5	C
	North Carolina	10.5	C
	South Carolina	10.5	C
	Texas	10.5	C
24	California	9	C

RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
	New Mexico	9	C
	North Dakota	9	C
	Ohio	9	C
	Pennsylvania	9	C
	Tennessee	9	C
	Wisconsin	9	C
	Wyoming	9	C
	Virginia	9	C
34	Hawaii	7.5	C
	Massachusetts	7.5	C
	Nevada	7.5	C
	Vermont	7.5	C
38	Illinois	6	C
	Kentucky	6	C
40	Rhode Island	4.5	D
41	Alaska	3	D
	Delaware	3	D
	Montana	3	D
	South Dakota	3	D
	Maryland	3	D
46	Connecticut	1.5	F
	New Jersey	1.5	F
48	Mississippi	0	F
	Nebraska	0	F
	New York	0	F

CHAPTER 5:

Open Enrollment



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

CHAPTER 5:

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment refers to policies that allow students to attend a traditional public school outside of their designated attendance zone. There are two types of open enrollment: interdistrict and intradistrict. Interdistrict open enrollment policies allow students to transfer to a traditional public school outside of their assigned school district. Intradistrict open enrollment policies allow students to transfer to another traditional public school outside of their attendance zone but still within the same school district. The best open enrollment policies permit both inter- and intradistrict open enrollment while mandating that school districts participate in these programs, subject only to reasonable limitations like classroom space. These rankings are based on data from the [Reason Foundation](#).

INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

Interdistrict open enrollment refers to a public-school student's ability to transfer to a public school located outside of their geographically-assigned district. States should require that school districts have policies in place to accept these kinds of transfers, subject to reasonable limitations, like seat availability.

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

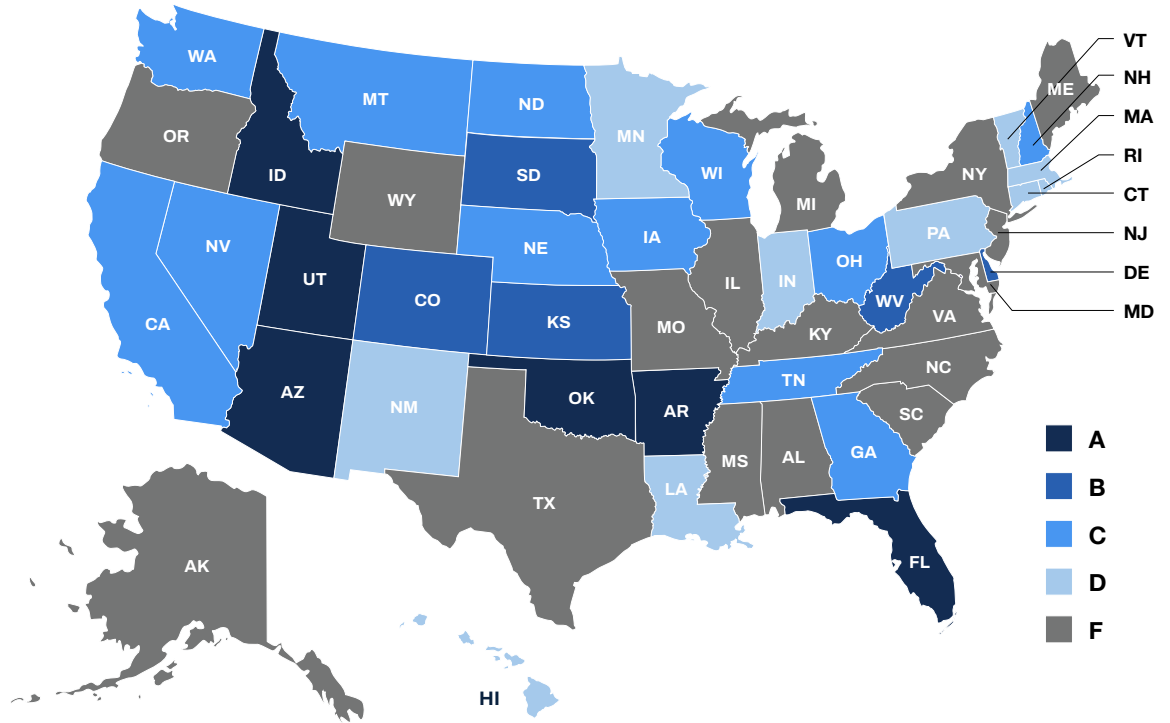
Intradistrict open enrollment refers to a public-school student's ability to transfer to a public school located within their geographically-assigned district. Like interdistrict open enrollment, states should require that school districts have policies in place that allow students to transfer within the school district.

STATE AND DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is a crucial element of state open enrollment policies. Local school districts should be required to publicly report data like how many seats they have available at each grade level, how many student transfer requests they denied, and the reasons for those denials. In addition, the state department of education should be required to aggregate this data and report it themselves so that families and policymakers can easily spot school districts that appear to be skirting the law and denying transfer requests without good cause.

FREE FOR FAMILIES

Whether a public-school student is transferring to a public school inside or outside of their district, parents should never be charged tuition for these transfers.

STATE OPEN
ENROLLMENT
GRADES

RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
1	Oklahoma	15	A
2	Arizona	14	A
	Arkansas	14	A
	Florida	14	A
	Idaho	14	A
	Utah	14	A
7	Colorado	13	B
	Delaware	13	B
	West Virginia	13	B
10	Kansas	10	B
	South Dakota	10	B
12	Nebraska	9	C
	Wisconsin	9	C
14	California	8	C
	Georgia	8	C
	Montana	8	C
	North Dakota	8	C
	Washington	8	C
19	Nevada	6	C
	Tennessee	6	C
21	Iowa	5	C
	New Hampshire	5	C
	Ohio	5	C
24	Connecticut	3	D
	Hawaii	3	D

RANK	STATE	SCORE	GRADE
	Indiana	3	D
	Louisiana	3	D
	Massachusetts	3	D
	Minnesota	3	D
	New Mexico	3	D
	Pennsylvania	3	D
	Rhode Island	3	D
	Vermont	3	D
34	Alabama	0	F
	Alaska	0	F
	Illinois	0	F
	Kentucky	0	F
	Maine	0	F
	Maryland	0	F
	Michigan	0	F
	Mississippi	0	F
	Missouri	0	F
	New Jersey	0	F
	New York	0	F
	North Carolina	0	F
	Oregon	0	F
	South Carolina	0	F
	Texas	0	F
	Virginia	0	F
	Wyoming	0	F

DETAILED SCORING **BREAKDOWN**



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

DETAILED SCORING BREAKDOWN

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

The tables below list the current education freedom financing programs in each state, along with the program type and total score. The highest scoring program represents the state's score for the funding and financing scoring category.

ALABAMA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education (CHOOSE) Program	Education Scholarship Account	37.50
Education Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	5.00

ARIZONA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Empowerment Scholarship Accounts	Education Scholarship Account	40.00
Original Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	31.50
"Switcher" Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	27.50
Low-Income Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	9.00
Lexie's Law for Disabled and Displaced Students Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	1.00

ARKANSAS

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program	Education Scholarship Account	37.50
Philanthropic Investment in Arkansas Kids Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	4.00

FLORIDA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options Program	Education Scholarship Account	40.00
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	38.00
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities	Education Scholarship Account	9.00

GEORGIA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	Voucher	16.00
Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit	Tax-Credit Scholarship	12.00
Georgia Promise Scholarship Program	Education Scholarship Account	5.00

IDAHO

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit	Refundable Tax Credit	15.00

INDIANA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Choice Scholarship Program	Voucher	35.00
School Scholarship Tax Credit	Tax-Credit Scholarship	13.50
Education Scholarship Account Program	Education Scholarship Account	6.00

IOWA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Students First Education Savings Account Program	Education Scholarship Account	38.00
School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	Tax-Credit Scholarship	8.50

KANSAS

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Tax Credit for Low-Income Students Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	3.00

LOUISIANA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Tuition Donation Tax Credit	Tax-Credit Scholarship	5.00
School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities	Voucher	1.00
Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (GATOR) Program	Education Scholarship Account	0.00

Note: The Louisiana Legislature enacted the LA GATOR Scholarship Program in 2024 as an ESA program available to all students in the state. However, the legislature has thus far failed to appropriate any funds for the program. As a result, no points are awarded for the LA GATOR Scholarship Program.

MAINE

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Town Tuitioning Program	Voucher	17.00

MARYLAND

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program	Voucher	2.00

MISSISSIPPI

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program	Voucher	15.00
Nate Rogers Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	Voucher	15.00
Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Program	Education Scholarship Account	5.00

MISSOURI

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts	Education Scholarship Account	16.00

MONTANA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Tax Credits for Contributions to Student Scholarship Organizations	Tax-Credit Scholarship	15.50
Montana Special Needs Equal Opportunity Education Savings Account Program	Education Scholarship Program	6.00

NEVADA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	5.00

NEW HAMPSHIRE

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Education Freedom Account Program	Education Scholarship Account	22.50
Town Tuitioning Program	Voucher	15.00
Education Tax Credit Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	3.00

NORTH CAROLINA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Opportunity Scholarships	Voucher	32.00
ESA+	Education Scholarship Account	6.00

OHIO

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Educational Choice Scholarship Program (Expansion)	Voucher	34.50
Educational Choice Scholarship Program (Legacy)	Voucher	30.00
Ohio Tax-Credit Scholarship Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	30.00
Autism Scholarship Program	Voucher	15.00
Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program	Voucher	1.00

OKLAHOMA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit Act	Refundable Tax Credit	19.00
Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities	Voucher	16.00
Oklahoma Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships	Tax-Credit Scholarship	11.00

PENNSYLVANIA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	11.50
Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	1.00

RHODE ISLAND

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Organizations	Tax-Credit Scholarship	4.00

SOUTH CAROLINA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Educational Scholarship Trust Fund	Education Scholarship Account	29.00
Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund	Tax-Credit Scholarship	1.00
Refundable Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children	Refundable Tax Credit	1.00

SOUTH DAKOTA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Partners in Education Tax Credit Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	5.00

TENNESSEE

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Tennessee Education Freedom Scholarship Act	Education Scholarship Account	21.50
Education Savings Account Program	Education Scholarship Account	14.00
Individualized Education Accounts	Education Scholarship Account	5.00

TEXAS

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Texas Education Savings Account Program	Education Scholarship Account	35.00

UTAH

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Utah Fits All Scholarship Program	Education Scholarship Account	21.00
Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship Program	Voucher	6.00

VERMONT

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Town Tuitioning Program	Voucher	19.00

VIRGINIA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits Program	Tax-Credit Scholarship	4.00

WEST VIRGINIA

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Hope Scholarship Program	Education Scholarship Account	39.00

WISCONSIN

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Statewide Parental Choice Program	Voucher	5.00
Special Needs Scholarship Program	Voucher	1.00

WYOMING

PROGRAM	TYPE	SCORE
Steamboat Legacy Scholarship Program	Education Scholarship Account	20.00

SCORING DETAIL

CHARTER SCHOOLS

STATE	AUTHORIZATION	GROWTH	OPERATIONS	EQUITY	TOTAL
Alabama	0.90	2.46	2.69	1.23	7.28
Alaska	0.90	2.46	0.90	1.57	5.82
Arizona	2.91	3.13	4.03	1.79	11.87
Arkansas	0.90	2.91	3.36	1.46	8.62
California	0.67	2.46	2.24	1.79	7.16
Colorado	1.79	2.91	3.13	1.79	9.63
Connecticut	0.67	0.67	2.24	1.46	5.04
Delaware	1.12	0.67	2.69	1.34	5.82
Florida	2.46	3.36	3.81	2.24	11.87
Georgia	2.01	2.69	2.24	1.34	8.28
Hawaii	1.12	2.46	1.79	1.34	6.72
Idaho	2.91	2.91	2.46	1.46	9.74
Illinois	0.67	0.45	2.24	2.01	5.37
Indiana	3.13	2.69	3.36	1.79	10.97
Iowa	1.79	2.91	3.36	1.57	9.63
Kansas	0.67	2.46	2.01	0.45	5.60
Kentucky	0.67	2.24	2.01	1.12	6.04
Louisiana	1.57	2.91	2.91	1.34	8.73
Maine	0.67	0.00	2.69	1.57	4.93
Maryland	0.22	2.24	0.67	1.34	4.48
Massachusetts	0.90	1.34	3.13	2.69	8.06
Michigan	3.36	2.69	2.91	2.01	10.97
Minnesota	2.01	3.13	2.91	2.91	10.97
Mississippi	1.79	0.90	2.01	1.79	6.49
Missouri	2.01	1.79	2.69	2.01	8.51
Montana	1.34	1.57	3.81	1.57	8.28
Nebraska	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nevada	1.57	2.91	1.79	1.46	7.72
New Hampshire	0.67	2.46	3.36	1.34	7.84
New Jersey	0.67	2.46	2.01	1.90	7.05
New Mexico	1.57	1.34	2.24	2.01	7.16
New York	2.24	1.79	3.13	2.46	9.63
North Carolina	1.79	3.36	2.91	1.57	9.63
North Dakota	1.57	2.24	2.69	2.24	8.73
Ohio	2.01	2.24	2.69	2.01	8.96
Oklahoma	2.69	1.79	3.13	1.57	9.18

SCORING DETAIL

CHARTER SCHOOLS

STATE	AUTHORIZATION	GROWTH	OPERATIONS	EQUITY	TOTAL
Oregon	0.67	2.01	2.69	0.90	6.27
Pennsylvania	0.67	2.24	2.91	1.79	7.61
Rhode Island	0.67	0.67	1.79	1.57	4.70
South Carolina	2.24	2.91	2.91	1.34	9.40
South Dakota	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tennessee	1.34	2.91	1.79	2.24	8.28
Texas	1.34	2.01	3.36	2.24	8.96
Utah	2.46	2.24	2.69	2.01	9.40
Vermont	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Virginia	0.00	2.24	1.12	1.79	5.15
Washington	0.90	0.67	2.46	0.45	4.48
West Virginia	2.24	0.90	3.58	2.24	8.96
Wisconsin	2.46	2.24	3.13	1.57	9.40
Wyoming	1.79	2.46	2.01	1.90	8.17

SCORING DETAIL

HOMESCHOOLING

STATE	ANNUAL NOTIFICATION REQUIRED	TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	STATE MANDATED SUBJECTS	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Alabama	No	Yes	Yes	No	7.5
Alaska	No	No	No	No	15
Arizona	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Arkansas	Yes	No	No	No	11.25
California	No	Yes	Yes	No	7.5
Colorado	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3.75
Connecticut	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Delaware	Yes	No	No	No	11.25
Florida	No	No	No	No	15
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Hawaii	No	No	Yes	Yes	7.5
Idaho	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Illinois	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Indiana	No	No	No	No	15
Iowa	No	No	No	No	15
Kansas	No	No	No	Yes	11.25
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	No	7.5
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3.75
Maine	No	No	Yes	Yes	7.5
Maryland	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3.75
Michigan	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Mississippi	Yes	No	No	No	11.25
Missouri	No	No	Yes	Yes	7.5
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	No	7.5
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3.75
Nevada	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
New Hampshire	No	No	Yes	Yes	7.5
New Jersey	No	No	No	No	15
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3.75
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3.75
North Carolina	No	Yes	No	Yes	7.5
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Ohio	Yes	No	Yes	No	7.5

SCORING DETAIL

HOMESCHOOLING

STATE	ANNUAL NOTIFICATION REQUIRED	TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	STATE MANDATED SUBJECTS	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	15
Oregon	No	No	No	Yes	11.25
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
South Carolina	No	Yes	Yes	No	7.5
South Dakota	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3.75
Texas	No	No	Yes	No	11.25
Utah	No	No	No	No	15
Vermont	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3.75
Virginia	Yes	No	No	Yes	7.5
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
West Virginia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3.75
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	No	7.5
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	No	11.25

SCORING DETAIL

VIRTUAL SCHOOLING

STATE	IS THERE A STATEWIDE VIRTUAL SCHOOL?	IS THERE A STATE-SPONSORED REPOSITORY OF VIRTUAL COURSES THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN USE?	ARE VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS ALLOWED?	CAN A CONSORTIUM OF LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS CREATE A VIRTUAL SCHOOL?	CAN FULL-TIME VIRTUAL SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE STATE ASSESSMENTS REMOTELY?	SCORE
Alabama	3	3	0	3	3	12
Alaska	0	3	0	0	0	3
Arizona	3	0	3	3	3	12
Arkansas	3	3	3	3	3	15
California	3	0	3	3	0	9
Colorado	3	3	3	3	3	15
Connecticut	0	1.5	0	0	0	1.5
Delaware	3	0	0	0	0	3
Florida	3	3	3	3	1.5	13.5
Georgia	3	1.5	3	3	0	10.5
Hawaii	0	3	3	1.5	0	7.5
Idaho	3	3	3	3	3	15
Illinois	0	3	3	0	0	6
Indiana	3	1.5	3	3	1.5	12
Iowa	3	3	3	3	3	15
Kansas	3	0	3	3	3	12
Kentucky	3	0	0	0	3	6
Louisiana	3	1.5	3	3	0	10.5
Maine	1.5	3	3	3	0	10.5
Maryland	0	0	0	3	0	3
Massachusetts	3	1.5	0	3	0	7.5
Michigan	3	1.5	3	3	0	10.5
Minnesota	1.5	3	3	3	0	10.5
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	3	3	0	3	3	12
Montana	0	3	0	0	0	3
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevada	1.5	0	3	3	0	7.5
New Hampshire	3	3	3	3	0	12
New Jersey	0	1.5	0	0	0	1.5

SCORING DETAIL

VIRTUAL SCHOOLING

STATE	IS THERE A STATEWIDE VIRTUAL SCHOOL?	IS THERE A STATE-SPONSORED REPOSITORY OF VIRTUAL COURSES THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN USE?	ARE VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS ALLOWED?	CAN A CONSORTIUM OF LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS CREATE A VIRTUAL SCHOOL?	CAN FULL-TIME VIRTUAL SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE STATE ASSESSMENTS REMOTELY?	SCORE
New Mexico	3	3	0	3	0	9
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	3	1.5	3	3	0	10.5
North Dakota	3	3	0	3	0	9
Ohio	3	0	3	3	0	9
Oklahoma	3	3	3	3	1.5	13.5
Oregon	3	3	3	3	3	15
Pennsylvania	3	0	3	3	0	9
Rhode Island	0	1.5	0	3	0	4.5
South Carolina	3	1.5	3	3	0	10.5
South Dakota	0	3	0	0	0	3
Tennessee	3	0	3	3	0	9
Texas	3	1.5	3	3	0	10.5
Utah	3	1.5	3	3	3	13.5
Vermont	1.5	3	0	0	3	7.5
Virginia	3	1.5	0	3	1.5	9
Washington	3	3	0	3	3	12
West Virginia	3	0	3	3	3	12
Wisconsin	3	3	0	3	0	9
Wyoming	3	3	0	3	0	9

SCORING DETAIL

OPEN ENROLLMENT

STATE	INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT	INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT	STATE TRANSPARENCY	DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY	FREE FOR FAMILIES	SCORE
Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	5	5	0	1	3	14
Arkansas	5	5	1	0	3	14
California	0	5	0	0	3	8
Colorado	5	5	0	0	3	13
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	3	3
Delaware	5	5	0	0	3	13
Florida	5	5	0	1	3	14
Georgia	0	5	0	0	3	8
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	3	3
Idaho	5	5	0	1	3	14
Illinois	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	0	0	0	0	3	3
Iowa	5	0	0	0	0	5
Kansas	5	0	1	1	3	10
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	3	3
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Massachusetts	0	0	0	0	3	3
Michigan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	3	3
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	5	0	0	0	3	8
Nebraska	5	0	0	1	3	9
Nevada	0	5	1	0	0	6
New Hampshire	0	5	0	0	0	5
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	0	0	0	0	3	3
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0

SCORING DETAIL

OPEN ENROLLMENT

STATE	INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT	INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT	STATE TRANSPARENCY	DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY	FREE FOR FAMILIES	SCORE
North Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota	5	0	0	0	3	8
Ohio	0	5	0	0	0	5
Oklahoma	5	5	1	1	3	15
Oregon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	0	0	0	0	3	3
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	3	3
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	5	5	0	0	0	10
Tennessee	0	5	0	1	0	6
Texas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah	5	5	0	1	3	14
Vermont	0	0	0	0	3	3
Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	5	0	0	3	8
West Virginia	5	5	0	0	3	13
Wisconsin	5	0	1	0	3	9
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0

SCORING **METHODOLOGY**



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

METHODOLOGY AND SCORING DETAILS

OVERVIEW

The *ALEC Index of State Education Freedom* ranks each state based on the availability of various educational environments, including charter schools, homeschooling, virtual schools, and public schools (through open enrollment policies). The index also looks at programs in each state that allow education dollars to follow students to a better learning environment for their needs. These programs are assessed based on the type of program, how much funding is provided, how many students are eligible to use them, and how many students are actually using them.

Too many communities around the country utilize a “one-size-fits-all” system of education, assigning children to a public school based on nothing more than a street address. This arcane method neglects the unique and individual needs of each student and fails to recognize that, while many students will succeed and thrive in their local public school, many will also experience more success through various non-public educational options.

The goal of this publication is to offer a comprehensive look at the educational options available to American families and, most importantly, demonstrate where each state can improve and keep pace with its peers. We hope that this publication serves as a resource to the dedicated policymakers around the country who are looking to expand freedom in education for their constituents.

CATEGORY 1: STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS (40 POINTS)

Education Scholarship Account (ESA), voucher, refundable tax credit, and tax-credit scholarship programs are individually graded on a 40-point scale. In states with multiple programs, the overall score for this category is determined by whichever program scores the highest.

Each program can earn a maximum of 40 points in the following manner:

- 15 points are awarded if the program is not subject to a funding or enrollment cap.

- A maximum of 15 points is awarded based on the percentage of students that are eligible to use the program:

ELIGIBLE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	POINTS
100%	15
90%	13
80%	11
70%	9
60%	7
50%	5
40%	4
30%	3
20%	2
10%	1
0%	0

- A maximum of 5 points is awarded based on the program’s participation rate. The participation rate is calculated as the percentage of a state’s K-12 student population using the program. Points are awarded as follows:

PERCENTAGE OF K-12 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	POINTS
5%	5
4.5%	4.5
4%	4
3.5%	3.5
3%	3
2.5%	2.5
2%	2
1.5%	1.5
1%	1
0.5%	0.5
0%	0

- 5 points are awarded if the program is an ESA

Note: Hyperlocal programs that are only available to students in a certain city or county are not included.

Data Source: [EdChoice](#)

CATEGORY 2: CHARTER SCHOOLS (15 POINTS)

- A maximum of 3.75 points is awarded when a state has multiple, independent charter authorizing entities.
- A maximum of 3.75 points is awarded when a state does not cap charter school growth and allows them to scale.
- 3.75 points is awarded when state law gives charter schools the flexibility and autonomy to innovate and operate freely.
- A maximum of 3.75 points is awarded when charter school funding is equitable to that of their traditional public-school counterparts.

Note: Scores in the Center for Education Reform's report were adjusted to fit the 15-point scale used for this category.

Data Source: [The Center for Education Reform's 2025 National Charter School Law Rankings & Scorecard](#)

CATEGORY 3: HOMESCHOOLING (15 POINTS)

- 3.75 points are awarded when parents do not need to provide annual notification of their intent to homeschool.
- 3.75 points are awarded when state law does not specify certain teacher qualification requirements for homeschooling.
- 3.75 points are awarded when the state does not mandate that certain subjects be taught to homeschooled students.
- 3.75 points are awarded when the state does not mandate assessments for homeschool students.

Note: A number of states offer multiple paths for parents to legally homeschool their children. This report focuses on traditional homeschooling statutes and laws that allow parents (or a tutor) to directly teach their own children.

Data Source: [The Home School Legal Defense Association](#)

CATEGORY 4: VIRTUAL SCHOOLING (15 POINTS)

- 3 points are awarded when a statewide virtual school is available.
- 3 points are awarded when there is a state-sponsored repository of online courses that school districts can use.
- 3 points are awarded when virtual charter schools are permitted.
- 3 points are awarded when multi-district virtual schools are permitted.
- 3 points are awarded when virtual school students can take their state assessments virtually as well.

Data Source: ALEC analysis of state statutes and programs

CATEGORY 5: OPEN ENROLLMENT (15 POINTS)

- 5 points are awarded when a state allows intradistrict open enrollment.
- 5 points are awarded when a state allows interdistrict open enrollment.
- 1 point is awarded when state education authorities are required to report basic open enrollment data like the number of transfers accepted and rejected.
- 1 point is awarded when local education authorities are required to report basic open enrollment data like the number of transfers accepted and rejected.
- 3 points are awarded when a state prohibits public schools from charging tuition to transferring students.

Note: In order for a state to receive points for having an intradistrict and/or interdistrict open enrollment policy, public schools must be required to accept transferring students unless a reasonable circumstance exists. These circumstances can include capacity/size limitations and desegregation orders. When these limitations exist, a state will still receive full credit for the policy.

Data Source: [Reason Foundation](#)

LETTER GRADES

Letter grades were determined in the following manner:

Overall

SCORE RANGE	GRADE
99 th Percentile (91.79+)	A+
90 th Percentile (76.04-91.78)	A
80 th Percentile (64.96-76.03)	A-
75 th Percentile (58.82-64.95)	B+
70 th Percentile (50.42-58.81)	B
65 th Percentile (43.82-50.41)	B-
60 th Percentile (42.02-43.81)	C+
55 th Percentile (39.92-42.01)	C
45 th Percentile (32.76-39.91)	C-
10 th Percentile (22.16-32.75)	D
Below 10 th Percentile (0.00-22.15)	F

Student-Centered Funding Programs

SCORE RANGE	GRADE
35.00	A
25.00-34.99	B
15.00-24.99	C
0.01-14.99	D
0.00	F

Charter Schools

Charter school laws were assigned the letter grade awarded in the 2025 National Charter School Law Rankings & Scorecard produced by the Center for Education Reform.

Homeschooling

SCORE RANGE	GRADE
15.00	A
11.25	B
7.50	C
3.75	D
0.00	F

Virtual Schooling

SCORE RANGE	GRADE
15.00	A
12.00-14.99	B
6.00-11.99	C
3.00-5.99	D
0.00-2.99	F

Open Enrollment

SCORE RANGE	GRADE
14.00-15.00	A
10.00-13.99	B
5.00-9.99	C
2.50-4.99	D
0.00-2.49	F

Notes

Partial, zero, and/or estimated scores were utilized where necessary. The average total score among the states was 42.99 and the median was 35.36.

ALEC MODEL POLICIES



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

ALEC MODEL POLICY SOLUTIONS

For 50 years, ALEC has provided a variety of trusted model policy solutions in education freedom. Below is a selection of those model policies, which policymakers can use as resource to bring as many educational options to as many students as possible. To view these model policies, please scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

- Hope Scholarship Act

CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Next Generation Charter Schools Act
- Public Charter School Authorizing and Accountability Act

HOMESCHOOLING

- Protecting Religious Homeschooling Act
- Homeschooled Student Access to Testing Act
- Resolution Supporting Homeschooling Freedom

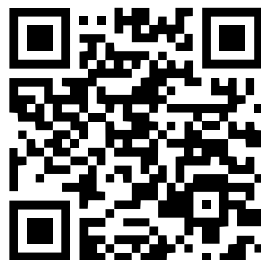
VIRTUAL SCHOOLING

- Online Learning Clearinghouse Act
- Virtual Learning Act

OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Open Enrollment Act

TRUSTED SOLUTIONS IN EDUCATION FREEDOM



SCAN TO VIEW ALEC'S
EDUCATION FREEDOM
MODEL POLICIES

OR [VISIT ALEC HERE.](#)

STATE REPORT CARDS



2026 | ALEC INDEX OF STATE EDUCATION FREEDOM

ALABAMA



OVERALL GRADE:

B+

OVERALL RANK:

12TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove the State Board of Education's ability to create regulations specific to charter schools. A legally authorized charter should always govern how the school operates.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil operational and facilities funds compared to their traditional public-school counterparts. Under current law, Alabama provides no ongoing funding or supports (like access to underutilized public facilities or low-interest loans) for charter schools to manage the costs associated with leasing and maintaining adequate learning facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess an Alabama Teaching License. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

ALASKA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

41ST

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow additional entities to authorize charter school applications, beyond just local school districts.
- Exempt charter schools from all laws and regulations that apply to the operation of traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety).
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil facilities funds compared to their traditional public-school counterparts. Under current law, Alaska provides no ongoing funding or supports (like access to underutilized public facilities or low-interest loans) for charter schools to manage the costs associated with leasing and maintaining adequate learning facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

ARIZONA



OVERALL GRADE:

A

OVERALL RANK:

2ND

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirements that specify mandatory subject areas for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

A

ARKANSAS



OVERALL GRADE:

A

OVERALL RANK:

3RD

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current Arkansas law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

A

CALIFORNIA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

31ST

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow an entity, like the State Board of Education, to authorize charter schools statewide.
- Eliminate the cap of 100 new charter schools per year.
- Reign in the ability of local school districts to impose arbitrary new regulations on charter schools.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a California Teaching License. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

COLORADO



OVERALL GRADE:

C

OVERALL RANK:

22ND

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Local school districts primarily act as charter school authorizers, with the Colorado Charter Schools Institute able to authorize when a district declines to become an authorizer. Charter applicants should have access to multiple authorizing entities, including an entity with statewide authorizing authority.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

CONNECTICUT



OVERALL GRADE:

F

OVERALL RANK:

46TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Current law gives the State Board of Education ultimate authority over all charter applications in the state. Policymakers should consider adding additional authorizing entities like institutions of higher education or consortiums of local school districts.
- Eliminate cap on charter school growth, which is currently set at 25% of the school district's enrollment (up to a maximum of 300 students) per year.
- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

DELAWARE



OVERALL GRADE:

C-

OVERALL RANK:

27TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- For new charter schools, the State Board of Education is the only authorizing entity. Policymakers should ensure that there are multiple authorizing entities for charter applicants to select from.
- Prevent school districts from imposing their own caps on charter school growth.
- Remove the State Department of Education's ability to create regulations specific to charter schools. A legally authorized charter should always govern how the school operates.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

FLORIDA



OVERALL GRADE:

A⁺

OVERALL RANK:

1ST

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

A

GEORGIA



OVERALL GRADE:

C+

OVERALL RANK:

19TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Georgia offers three different programs, including an ESA program (the Georgia Promise Scholarship) but all of them are hamstrung by eligibility or funding limitations. Policymakers should consider expanding these offerings, especially the Georgia Promise Scholarship Program, to all students across the state.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a high school diploma or GED. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children.
- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the Georgia Department of Education of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment every three years after completing the 3rd grade.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

HAWAII



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

38TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.
- Eliminate the ability of the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission to impose burdensome and unnecessary regulations on charter schools. A legally authorized charter should govern a charter school's operations.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

IDAHO



OVERALL GRADE:

A-

OVERALL RANK:

10TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- In 2025, Idaho lawmakers took a major step forward by passing the Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit, a refundable education tax credit that is available to all families in the state. However, the program receives a \$50 million annual appropriation that will only cover scholarships for about 3% of students. Policymakers should consider tying program funding directly to the school funding formula, thus ensuring adequate funding for all families wishing to participate.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

A

ILLINOIS



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

44TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Only local school districts and the Illinois Board of Education can authorize charter schools. Policymakers should consider adding additional authorizing entities to provide additional authorization pathways for charter applicants.
- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, 120 charter contracts are permitted statewide (Up to 70 in Chicago and up to 45 elsewhere, with another 5 for students in underperforming schools).
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil facilities funds compared to their traditional public-school counterparts. Illinois provides no ongoing funding or supports (like access to underutilized public facilities or low-interest loans) for charter schools to manage the costs associated with leasing and maintaining adequate learning facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

INDIANA



OVERALL GRADE:

A-

OVERALL RANK:

6TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

IOWA



OVERALL GRADE:

A

OVERALL RANK:

4TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

KANSAS



OVERALL GRADE:

C

OVERALL RANK:

21ST

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Kansas has one tax-credit scholarship program, but eligibility is extremely limited. Policymakers should consider better programs, like ESAs, and make them available to all students so that funding truly follows students to the best learning environment for their needs.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- School districts are the only entities permitted to authorize charter schools in Kansas. Policymakers should consider allowing additional authorizing entities, like institutions of higher education, and an authorizer with authority statewide.
- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Eliminate testing requirements for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.

KENTUCKY



OVERALL GRADE:

F

OVERALL RANK:

48TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities. Currently, charter schools in Kentucky do not have access to any funding mechanism.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

LOUISIANA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

33RD

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- In 2024, the Louisiana legislature passed the LA GATOR Scholarship Program into law as a universal ESA. However, the legislature has thus far failed to provide any funding for the program. Policymakers should tie funding for the program directly to the state's education funding formula. This will ensure that all families wishing to participate are able to and eliminate the chance for funding lapses in the future.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the state of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove testing requirements for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

MAINE



OVERALL GRADE:

C

OVERALL RANK:

23RD

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Maine's town-tuitioning program provides funding for students to attend a public or private school of their choosing, but it is only available to students whose school district does not offer a public school at their grade level. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs, and can use programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to truly achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, no more than 10 charter schools are allowed to operate in Maine at any given time.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove assessment requirements for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

MARYLAND



OVERALL GRADE:

F

OVERALL RANK:

47TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Maryland offers one voucher program, but eligibility is strictly limited to extremely low-income families. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs and should consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- In most cases, local school districts are the only entity permitted to authorize charter schools in Maryland. Policymakers should consider permitting additional authorizing entities, like institutions of higher education, as well as a statewide authorizing entity.
- Maryland is unique in that charter schools are generally subject to the same operating requirements as traditional public schools. In effect, true charter schools do not exist in Maryland because of this. Policymakers should ensure that charters are exempted from these regulations and free to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate a virtual school for their students.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

MASSACHUSETTS



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

45TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- The Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is the only authorizing entity in the state. Policymakers should consider adding additional authorizers like local school districts and institutions of higher education.
- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, Massachusetts law limits commonwealth charters to 72 statewide.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove assessment requirements for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

MICHIGAN



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

29TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

MINNESOTA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

40TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take an annual standardized assessment.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

MISSISSIPPI



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

28TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Mississippi offers three programs, but each is extremely limited in terms of eligibility. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs and can use programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- The Mississippi Charter Board is the only entity permitted to authorize charter schools in the state. Policymakers should consider allowing additional entities, like school districts and institutions of higher education, to be authorizers. In addition, policymakers should consider the creation of an authorizing entity with statewide authority.
- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, no more than 15 new charter schools can be approved in a given fiscal year.
- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, this exemption is only provided for some laws and regulations.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

MISSOURI



OVERALL GRADE:

B-

OVERALL RANK:

18TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Missouri offers the Empowerment Scholarship Account Program, a tax-credit funded ESA program that is available to low-income families. In 2025, the legislature provided an additional \$50 million appropriation for the program (in addition to its tax credit funding). Policymakers can make the program even stronger but making all students in the state eligible, and tying funding directly to the education formula.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove the State Board of Education's ability to create regulations specific to charter schools. A legally authorized charter should always govern how the school operates.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil operational and facilities funds compared to their traditional public-school counterparts. Under current law, Alabama provides no ongoing funding or supports (like access to underutilized public facilities or low-interest loans) for charter schools to manage the costs associated with leasing and maintaining adequate learning facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess an Alabama Teaching License. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

MONTANA



OVERALL GRADE:

C+

OVERALL RANK:

20TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Montana offers a tax-credit scholarship program that any student can apply to use, but funding is extremely limited since the state provides no direct appropriations. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs and can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

NEBRASKA



OVERALL GRADE:

F

OVERALL RANK:

50TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Nebraska is one of just three states without charter schools thanks to a lack of authorizing legislation. Policymakers will need to pass legislation that permits charters while laying the groundwork for their growth and success.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.

NEVADA



OVERALL GRADE:

C-

OVERALL RANK:

25TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Nevada offers the Educational Choice Scholarship Program, which is a tax-credit scholarship available to low-income families. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs, and can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with local school districts. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

NEW HAMPSHIRE



OVERALL GRADE:

B

OVERALL RANK:

15TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- In 2025, lawmakers in New Hampshire voted to expand the state's Education Freedom Account to all students in the state. However, there is a cap of 10,000 students on the program. If at least 90% of the cap is met in a given year, then the cap for the following year automatically increases by 25%. Policymakers can make this one of the strongest programs in the country by removing the enrollment cap and ensuring that all families wishing to participate are able to.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove annual assessment requirements for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

NEW JERSEY



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

42ND

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- The Commissioner of Education is the only authorizing entity in New Jersey. Policymakers should consider permitting additional entities, like school districts and institutions of higher education.
- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

NEW MEXICO



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

43RD

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate many exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

NEW YORK



OVERALL GRADE:

F

OVERALL RANK:

49TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, New York limits charter schools to no more than 460 statewide.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove annual assessment requirements for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

NORTH CAROLINA



OVERALL GRADE:

B+

OVERALL RANK:

13TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship Program is available to all students in the state. As a voucher program, it can be used by families to pay for tuition at private schools. Policymakers could make this program even stronger by converting it to an ESA, which would allow families to spend the funds on a wide variety of approved K-12 educational expenses.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove annual assessment requirement for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

NORTH DAKOTA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

36TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- North Dakota lawmakers passed the state's first charter school law in 2025, which gives the state's charter school environment a strong start. However, policymakers can make it even stronger by creating additional authorizing entities. Under current law, only the Superintendent of Public Instruction has the authority to authorize charter schools.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

OHIO



OVERALL GRADE:

B⁺

OVERALL RANK:

11TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ohio's Educational Choice Scholarship Program is available to all families in the state. Funding amounts vary based on family income and dollars can be used for tuition at private schools. This is already one of the strongest programs in the country, but policymakers can make it even stronger by converting it to an ESA, which would allow families to use the funds for a wider variety of approved K-12 educational expenses.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

OKLAHOMA



OVERALL GRADE:

A-

OVERALL RANK:

8TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- In 2023, the Oklahoma legislature enacted the Parental Choice Tax Credit, the first refundable education tax credit in America. Any family can use the program, but funding is subject to a \$250 million cap in 2026. Policymakers could improve the program by eliminating the cap and ensuring that every family wishing to participate is able to do so.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

A

OREGON



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

30TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Only local school districts can authorize charter schools in Oregon. Policymakers should consider adding additional authorizing entities, particularly one with authority to operate anywhere in the state.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

A



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

PENNSYLVANIA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

32ND

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Pennsylvania offers a tax-credit scholarship program, but eligibility is limited to low-income families. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs, and can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 3, 5, and 8.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

RHODE ISLAND



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

35TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Rhode Island has one, small tax-credit scholarship program. The state provides no direct appropriations to it and eligibility is limited to low-income families. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs, and can achieve this through programs like refundable education tax credits, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Only the State Board of Education is able to authorize charter schools in Rhode Island. Policymakers should consider permitting additional authorizing entities like school districts and institutions of higher education.
- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, no more than 35 charter schools can operate statewide.
- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

SOUTH CAROLINA



OVERALL GRADE:

B

OVERALL RANK:

14TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- In 2025, South Carolina lawmakers created the Educational Scholarship Trust Fund, an ESA program available to a substantial portion of South Carolina students. Policymakers can make this even stronger by continuing to expand eligibility to all students across the state.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

SOUTH DAKOTA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

34TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- South Dakota offers one tax-credit scholarship program, but the state provides no direct appropriations and eligibility is limited to low-income families. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs, and can achieve this through programs like refundable education tax credits, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- South Dakota is one of just three states without charter schools thanks to a lack of authorizing legislation. Policymakers will need to pass legislation that permits charters while laying the groundwork for their growth and success.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Allow for the creation of a virtual school, or virtual schools, that can operate statewide.
- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

TENNESSEE



OVERALL GRADE:

B-

OVERALL RANK:

16TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- In 2025, Tennessee lawmakers enacted the Education Freedom Scholarship Act, which creates a universal ESA program for all students in the state. However, the program is subject to legislative appropriations and there is a cap of 20,000 students (which increases by 5,000 when at least 75% of the cap is met in a given year). Policymakers can only make the program stronger by tying funding directly to the education formula and removing the cap, thus ensuring that any student wishing to participate is able to.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 5, 7, and 9.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

TEXAS



OVERALL GRADE:

A-

OVERALL RANK:

9TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C*

How to Improve:

- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

**Note: The Texas Legislature passed SB 569 in 2025, which makes several positive changes to the state's virtual school laws. SB 569 gives the Commissioner of Education the ability to implement a regulation allowing virtual students to take their state assessments remotely. In addition, school districts or the state can create a repository of virtual courses for middle and high school students under the new framework. If both of these actions are taken thanks to the framework established in SB 569, Texas would receive a perfect score in the category.*

UTAH



OVERALL GRADE:

A-

OVERALL RANK:

7TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- The Utah Fits All Scholarship Program is a universal ESA that any student in the state can apply to use. However, the program is subject to legislative appropriations which limits how many students can actually use the program. Policymakers can improve the Utah Fits All Scholarship by tying funding directly to the state education formula and ensuring that every student wishing to participate is able to.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

A



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

A

VERMONT



OVERALL GRADE:

C-

OVERALL RANK:

26TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Vermont has a town tuitioning program that provides funding to students whose grade level isn't served by their local school district, so eligibility is limited. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs and can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Vermont is one of just three states without charter schools thanks to a lack of authorizing legislation. Policymakers will need to pass legislation that permits charters while laying the groundwork for their growth and success.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove annual assessment requirement for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for multiple school districts to jointly operate and manage a virtual school for their students or students statewide.
- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

VIRGINIA



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

37TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Virginia offers a tax-credit scholarship program, but eligibility is limited to low-income families. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs and can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom) to achieve this.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Only local school districts can authorize charter schools in Virginia. Policymakers should consider permitting additional entities as authorizers, especially one with authority statewide.
- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the local school district. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove annual assessment requirement for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.

WASHINGTON



OVERALL GRADE:

D

OVERALL RANK:

39TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs. Policymakers can consider programs like refundable education tax credits, tax-credit scholarships, vouchers, or education scholarship accounts (the gold standard in education freedom).



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Eliminate the cap on charter school growth. Currently, no more than 40 charter schools can operate statewide.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove annual assessment requirement for homeschooled students.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

WEST VIRGINIA



OVERALL GRADE:

A

OVERALL RANK:

5TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

A



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Eliminate cap on charter school growth. Currently, 10 physical charter schools can be authorized every three years.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschool teachers possess a teaching license. Parents should always be empowered to teach their own children, regardless of whether they possess a valid teaching credential.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.
- Remove requirement that homeschool students must take a standardized assessment in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Create a central repository of virtual courses that school districts can elect to offer their students. Parents can also browse this repository and easily enroll their kids in a virtual course.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.

WISCONSIN



OVERALL GRADE:

C-

OVERALL RANK:

24TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

D

How to Improve:

- Wisconsin has a few voucher programs, but each contains various eligibility limitations. Policymakers should ensure that education funding follows all students to whatever learning environment is best for their needs.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that parents must annually notify the state of their intent to homeschool. This notice only needs to be provided once at the start of homeschooling or, ideally, no notice should be required at all.
- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in intradistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.

WYOMING



OVERALL GRADE:

B-

OVERALL RANK:

17TH

STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING PROGRAMS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- In 2025, Wyoming lawmakers passed the Steamboat Legacy Scholarship Act, which creates a universal ESA program. However, the program is subject to appropriations and the legislature has made \$30 million available. Policymakers can make the program even stronger by tying funding to the state education formula and ensuring that all families wishing to participate are able to do so.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Ensure that charter schools are exempt from all laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools (excluding reasonable exceptions like those related to health and safety). Under current law, charter applicants must negotiate these exemptions with the state. This limits their autonomy and ability to innovate.
- Ensure that charter schools receive equitable per-pupil funding for operations and facilities.



HOMESCHOOLING

GRADE:

B

How to Improve:

- Remove requirement that homeschooling curriculum include the same areas of study in traditional public schools. Empower parents to decide what subjects to focus on and tailor curriculum to their child's needs.



VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

GRADE:

C

How to Improve:

- Allow for virtual charter schools to operate in the state.
- Allow virtual school students to take their state assessments virtually.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

GRADE:

F

How to Improve:

- Require public school districts to participate in both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment, subject to reasonable exceptions like space limitations.
- Provide transparency by requiring public school districts to publish their open enrollment policies, how many seats they have available per grade level, how many students are using open enrollment, how many students were rejected for open enrollment, and the reasons for those rejections.
- Ensure that families are never charged tuition for attending a public school, even when participating in open enrollment.



*Empowering States,
Shaping America's Future*