



# North Dakota

## Overall Rank

#41

North Dakota ranks #41 in overall education freedom, falling five spots from the previous year. The state experienced its most significant drop in the teacher freedom category, down 23 spots to #38.

## Education Choice Rank

#48

North Dakota ranks 48th for **education choice**. North Dakota could do much more to expand education choice. North Dakota could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, enacting a charter school policy, removing excessive regulations on homeschooling families, and giving families more choices among traditional public schools beyond their assigned school.

## Transparency Rank

#22

North Dakota ranks 22nd in **academic transparency**. In 2023, Governor Doug Burgum (R) signed a proposal<sup>1</sup> that creates a parental bill of rights. The proposal says: “A parent retains the right and duty to exercise primary control over the care, supervision, upbringing, and education of the parent’s child.” Also in 2023, lawmakers adopted provisions similar<sup>2</sup> to those of The Heritage Foundation’s Given Name Act. State lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency or that reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

## Teacher Freedom Rank

#38

North Dakota ranks 38th for **teacher freedom**. No teachers in the state are alternatively certified and the state does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in North Dakota are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. The state does not have a school district with more than 15,000 students, so no “chief diversity officer” is recorded. North Dakota does not use Common Core-aligned assessments. North Dakota can improve its teacher freedom score by eliminating the Praxis requirement and allowing aspiring teachers to enter the K-12 classroom through means other than a university-based college of education. The state should allow alternative teacher certification or eliminate teacher certification requirements altogether, and should allow full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states.

## Return on Investment Rank

#33

North Dakota ranks 33rd in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. North Dakota spends the 13th-most per pupil among states, spending \$19,538 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. North Dakota ranks 17th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Sioux State employs 2.32 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. North Dakota’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 6 percent of its state GDP. North Dakota can improve its ROI ranking by lowering per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, stopping growth in non-teaching staff, and lowering its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

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

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 5	0	0	▼ 23	▲ 2

#### NOTES:

- <https://www.ndlegis.gov/prod/assembly/68-2023/regular/documents/23-0345-06000.pdf>
- <https://legiscan.com/ND/text/HB1522/id/2797884>