



# Vermont

## Overall Rank #47

Vermont ranked #47 overall in education freedom in 2024. It also ranked second to last in transparency and dead last in return on investment.

## Education Choice Rank #27

Vermont ranks 27th for **education choice**, down one spot since 2023. Vermont does fairly well in empowering families to choose among private schools in areas that lack district schools, but could do more to expand education choice. Vermont could improve its ranking by enacting a K-12 education savings account (ESA) policy, expanding eligibility for and boosting participation in its existing private education choice policy, enacting a charter school policy, and removing excessive regulations on homeschool families.

## Transparency Rank #50

Vermont ranks 50th in **academic transparency**. Vermont lawmakers have not adopted proposals to increase academic transparency, create a parent bill of rights, or reject the prejudice caused by the application of critical race theory in schools.

## Teacher Freedom Rank #36

Vermont ranks 36th in **teacher freedom**. Although 23 percent of teachers made their way to the K-12 classroom through alternative teacher certification programs, bypassing university-based colleges of education, the Green Mountain State does not have full reciprocity of teacher licensure with other states. Educators in Vermont are required to pass the Praxis test, a teacher certification exam administered by the Educational Testing Service. No school district has more than 15,000 students, so none is recorded as employing a “chief diversity officer.” Vermont no longer uses prescriptive Common Core-aligned tests. Vermont can improve its teacher freedom score by increasing the number of aspiring teachers that enter the K-12 classroom through alternative teacher certification programs, allowing full reciprocity of teacher licensure or by eliminating teacher certification requirements altogether, and by eliminating the Praxis test mandate.

## Return on Investment Rank #51

Vermont ranks last—51st—in **return on investment (ROI)** for education spending. Vermont spends the third-most per pupil among states, spending \$25,478 in cost-of-living-adjusted terms annually. Vermont ranks 20th in its combined fourth-grade and eighth-grade math and reading average NAEP score. The Green Mountain State employs 1.48 teachers for every non-teacher in its public schools. Vermont’s unfunded teacher pension liability represents 8.3 percent of its state GDP. Vermont can improve its ROI ranking by lowering per-pupil spending, improving academic outcomes on the NAEP, stopping growth in non-teaching staff, and addressing its unfunded teacher pension liabilities.

### Vermont: One-Year Rank Changes (2023-2024)

OVERALL	EDUCATION CHOICE	TRANSPARENCY	TEACHER FREEDOM	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
▼ 1	▼ 1	▼ 3	▼ 8	▼ 1