







Alabama

School Management	C	
Finance	D	
Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation	B	
Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers	D	
Data	C	
Pipeline to Postsecondary	C	
Technology	D	
State Reform Environment	?	
Gold Stars		

School Management. Alabama does a mediocre job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has solid academic standards, but 90% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching. Alabama also does not have a charter school law.

Finance. Overall, Alabama receives a low grade in this category. The state gets low marks for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism and a failing score for the online accessibility of its financial data. Alabama does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Alabama gets an above-average mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Eighteen percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. The state also requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Alabama receives a disappointing score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Sixty-three percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective educators, 2 percentage points above the national average of 61%. Also, 88% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Alabama gets a middling mark for its state data system. While the state has a teacher-identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students, it does not have a P-20 longitudinal data system.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Alabama receives an average grade for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Fifty-eight percent of Alabama schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 7 percentage points below the national average of 65%. However, 69% of schools in the state report work-based internships.

Technology. Alabama receives a low grade in this category. The state does not offer a computer-based assessment and does not require technology testing for teachers. The state also needs to significantly improve how it evaluates its return on investments in technology.

State Reform Environment. There are few reliable state-by-state data on local education advocacy and research efforts—a reflection of the lack of overall commitment to this issue. As a result, we are unable to issue a meaningful grade. However, Alabama does support common academic standards.
