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## Alaska

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

**School Management.** Alaska does a below-average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has disappointing academic standards, and 93% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching.

**Finance.** Overall, Alaska posts a middling grade in this category. Alaska gets a solid mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism, and it receives an average score for the online accessibility of its financial data. Alaska does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

**Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation.** Alaska receives a mediocre mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Eight percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. The state's alternative certification program also gets a very low mark. However, Alaska requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills tests.

**Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers.** Alaska receives an average grade on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Sixty-eight percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective educators, which is 7 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 69% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers, which is 3 percentage points below the national average of 72%.

**Data.** Alaska gets a middling mark for its state data system. Although the state has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year, it does not have a teacher-identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students.

**Pipeline to Postsecondary.** Alaska receives a low mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Fifty-nine percent of schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 6 percentage points below the national average of 65%. In addition, Alaska does not offer the option of a high school diploma with a career specialization.

**Technology.** Alaska receives an average mark in this category. While the state does not offer a computer-based assessment, it has established a virtual school. 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. Alaska does not support common academic standards, and it does not factor a reliable graduation rate into its accountability system.

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