








Arizona

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

School Management. Arizona does an above-average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. While 89% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching, the state has solid academic standards and sanctions low-performing schools.

Finance. Overall, Arizona posts an excellent grade in this category. The state gets a solid mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism and has a performance pay program for teachers.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Arizona gets an average mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Seventeen percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. While Arizona requires incoming teachers to pass subject-knowledge tests, it does not require them to pass basic skills tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Arizona receives a good score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Thirty-eight percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, compared with the national average of 61%. Also, 54% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers, which is better than the national average of 72%.

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

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Arizona receives a mediocre mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Seventy-seven percent of schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. That is 12 percentage points above the national average of 65%. However, Arizona does not have high school exams that gauge college and career readiness.

Technology. Arizona receives a middling grade in this category. While the state has established a virtual school, Arizona does not offer a computer-based assessment. 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, Arizona supports common academic standards and factors a reliable graduation rate into its accountability system.

Gold Stars. Arizona receives a gold star in the School Management category for holding charter schools accountable for their performance. We award a state a gold star if it meets two criteria: It has more than 250 charter schools, and more than 15% of its charter schools have been closed.
