





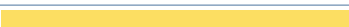

Arkansas

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

School Management. Arkansas does a poor job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has below-average academic standards, and 89% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching.

Finance. Overall, Arkansas earns a good grade in this category. The state gets excellent marks for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism and the online accessibility of its financial data. However, districts in Arkansas do not have full authority over teacher pay.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Arkansas receives an average mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Only 52% of principals report having a major degree of influence over teacher hiring, far lower than the national average of 74%. However, the state requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Arkansas receives a below-average score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Fifty-one percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, better than the national average of 61%. However, 78% of principals report that the effort required for documentation is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Arkansas gets a very good mark for its state data system. The state publicly reports college remediation data, and it has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Arkansas receives a mediocre mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Eighty-one percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 16 percentage points above the national average of 65%. However, only 31% of Arkansas schools report offering work-based internships.

Technology. Arkansas receives a middling grade in this category. While the state has established a virtual school, it 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, Arkansas supports common academic standards.
