







Florida

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

School Management. Florida does a mediocre job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. Ninety percent of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching, and the state received a below-average grade for its academic standards. However, the state sanctions low-performing schools and has an above-average charter school law.

Finance. Overall, Florida earns an above-average grade in this category. The state gets a solid mark for the online accessibility of its financial data, and it has a performance pay program for teachers.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Florida receives an above-average mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Nineteen 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. Florida receives a very poor score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Seventy-one percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, 10 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 77% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Florida gets an excellent mark for its state data system. The state publicly reports college remediation data and has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Florida receives a below-average mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Fifty-two percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 13 percentage points below the national average of 65%. In addition, 58% of Florida schools report offering work-based internships.

Technology. Florida receives a solid grade in this category. Although the state needs to improve how it evaluates its return on investments in technology, it has established a virtual school and requires technology testing for teachers.

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, Florida does factor a reliable graduation rate into its accountability system and supports common academic standards. Additionally, the Foundation for Florida's Future is a member of the forward-thinking Policy Innovators in Education Network.

Gold Stars. Florida 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.
