
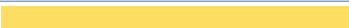








Massachusetts

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

School Management. Massachusetts does a solid job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has high academic standards, sanctions low-performing schools, and provides rewards to high-performing or improving schools.

Finance. Overall, Massachusetts earns an average grade in this category. While the state gets a very low mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism, it receives an above-average score for the online accessibility of its financial data. Massachusetts does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Massachusetts receives a good mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Twelve percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. Massachusetts also requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Massachusetts receives a below-average score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Eighty percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, 19 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 80% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Massachusetts gets a solid mark for its state data system. Although the state publicly reports college remediation data, it does not factor that information into its accountability system.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Massachusetts receives a mediocre mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Fifty-four percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 11 percentage points below the national average of 65%. However, 74% of Massachusetts schools report offering work-based internships.

Technology. Massachusetts receives a low grade in this category. The state has not established a virtual school and does not offer a computer-based assessment. Massachusetts 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, the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education is a member of the forward-thinking Policy Innovators in Education Network, and the state has participated in international student assessments that are important for benchmarking. Massachusetts also supports common academic standards.

Gold Stars. In the School Management category, Massachusetts receives a gold star for having a state-level expanded learning time initiative. To receive a gold star in this category, a state must have an established policy to expand learning time for all students within a school and/or district, prioritizing high-poverty schools. The initiative must focus on redesigning the school day or year versus tacking on hours.