
Mississippi

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

School Management. Mississippi does a below-average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. Eighty-six percent of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching, and the state has a very weak charter school law.

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

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

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Mississippi receives an excellent score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Only 14% of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, 47 percentage points below the national average of 61%. In addition, only 19% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Mississippi gets a mediocre 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 P-20 longitudinal data system.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Mississippi receives a low mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Forty-five percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 20 percentage points below the national average of 65%. In addition, only 45% of Mississippi schools report offering work-based internships.

Technology. Mississippi receives an above-average grade in this category. Although the state needs to significantly improve how it evaluates its return on investments in technology, it has established a virtual school and offers a computer-based assessment.

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, Mississippi supports common academic standards.
