





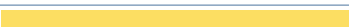

Missouri

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

School Management. Missouri does a poor job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has lackluster academic standards, and 89% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching. The state does not sanction low-performing schools.

Finance. Overall, Missouri earns an average grade in this category. While districts in the state do not have full authority over teacher pay, Missouri receives a high score for the online accessibility of its financial data. Missouri also does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

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

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Missouri receives an above-average score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Forty-five percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 16 percentage points below the national average of 61%. In addition, 76% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers, which is 4 percentage points above the national average.

Data. Missouri earns a high mark for its state data system. The state publicly reports college remediation data and has a teacher-identifier system to match students to teachers.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Missouri receives a below-average mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Fifty-eight percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 7 percentage points below the national average of 65%. In addition, close to 7% of Missouri students in the 2008 high school class passed Advanced Placement tests, compared with the national average of 15%.

Technology. Missouri receives an average grade in this category. The state has established a virtual school, but it does not offer a computer-based assessment. Missouri 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, Missouri supports common academic standards.
