
Nebraska

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

School Management. Nebraska does a dismal job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has below-average academic standards, and 91% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching. In addition, the state does not sanction low-performing schools or have a charter school law.

Finance. Overall, Nebraska earns a solid grade in this category. The state gets an above-average mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism, and it receives an average score for the online accessibility of its financial data. And while Nebraska does not have a performance pay program for teachers, districts in the state have full authority over teacher pay.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Nebraska receives a disappointing mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Three percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. Nebraska also does not require incoming teachers to pass subject-knowledge tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Nebraska receives an excellent score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Fifty percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 11 percentage points below the national average of 61%. In addition, 59% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Nebraska earns a low mark for its state data system. The state lacks a teacher-identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students. It also does not publicly report college remediation data.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Nebraska receives a dismal 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%. Additionally, only 46% of Nebraska schools report offering work-based internships.

Technology. Nebraska receives a disappointing grade in this category. The state has not established a virtual school and does not offer a computer-based assessment. Nebraska 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, Nebraska supports common academic standards.
