
New Mexico

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

School Management. New Mexico does an average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. Although the state sanctions low-performing schools, it has mediocre academic standards, and 92% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching.

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

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

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. New Mexico receives a very low score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Sixty-four percent of principals say that personnel policies are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers. That is 16 percentage points above the national average of 48%. In addition, 61% of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers.

Data. New Mexico gets a solid mark for its state data system. The state has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year. New Mexico publicly reports college remediation data, but it does not factor college remediation data into its accountability system.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. New Mexico receives a mediocre mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Eighty-six percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 21 percentage points above the national average of 65%. However, New Mexico does not have high school exams that gauge college and career readiness.

Technology. New Mexico receives an above-average grade in this category. The state has established a virtual school and requires technology testing for teachers. However, it does not offer a computer-based assessment. New Mexico 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, New Mexico supports common academic standards.
