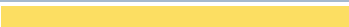








Rhode Island

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

School Management. Rhode Island does an average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has lower-than-average academic standards, and 88% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching. However, the state sanctions low-performing schools and provides rewards to high-performing or improving ones.

Finance. Overall, Rhode Island earns a below-average grade in this category. While the state gets an above-average mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism, Rhode Island does not have a performance pay program for teachers. Districts in the state also do not have full authority over teacher pay.

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

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Rhode Island receives an average score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Eighty-two percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 21 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 76% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Rhode Island gets an above-average mark for its state data system. The state has the ability to match individual students’ test records from year to year. Although Rhode Island publicly reports college remediation data, it does not factor that college remediation data into its accountability system.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island does not require a college- and career-ready diploma.

Technology. Rhode Island receives a lower-than-average grade in this category. While the state offers a computer-based assessment, it has not established a virtual school. The state 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, Rhode Island supports common academic standards.

Gold Stars. In the School Management category, Rhode Island receives a gold star for having a state-level expanded learning time policy. To receive a gold star, 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.