







Texas

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

School Management. Texas does an average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. While 89% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching, the state sanctions low-performing schools and provides rewards to high-performing or improving ones.

Finance. Overall, Texas earns an above-average grade in this category. The state gets a solid mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism and has a performance pay program for teachers.

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

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Texas receives a high score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Only 29% of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 32 percentage points below the national average of 61%. However, 52% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Texas gets an average mark for its state data system. While the state does not publicly report college remediation data, it does have a P-20 longitudinal data system. Texas also has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Texas receives a solid mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Sixty-six percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. This figure is slightly higher than the national average of 65%. In addition, the state has high school exams that gauge college and career readiness, and it requires a college- and career-ready diploma.

Technology. Texas receives an average grade in this category. The state has not established a virtual school, but it does require technology testing for teachers. Texas 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, the Texas Institute for Education Reform is a member of the forward-thinking Policy Innovators in Education Network. The state also factors a reliable graduation rate into its accountability system.
