







Washington

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

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

Finance. Overall, Washington earns a middling grade in this category. The state gets an average mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism and a solid score for the online accessibility of its financial data. Washington does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Washington receives a good mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. While the state's participation in national programs to recruit nontraditional teachers receives a below-average mark, Washington requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Washington receives a below-average score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Seventy-nine percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 18 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 70% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Washington gets a solid mark for its state data system. The state has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year and has a P-20 longitudinal data system. However, Washington does not publicly report college remediation data.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Washington receives an above-average mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Eighty-three percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 18 percentage points above the national average of 65%. However, Washington does not have high school exams that gauge college and career readiness.

Technology. Washington receives a low grade in this category. The state has not established a virtual school and does not offer a computer-based assessment. Washington 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 Washington-based Partnership for Learning and the League of Education Voters are members of the forward-thinking Policy Innovators in Education Network. The state also supports common academic standards and factors a reliable graduation rate into its accountability system.
