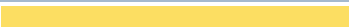


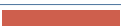





West Virginia

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

School Management. West Virginia does a mediocre job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has middling academic standards and does not have a charter school law. However, the state sanctions low-performing schools and provides rewards to high-performing or improving ones.

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

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. West Virginia receives an average mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Seven percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. But West Virginia requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests and has solid interstate portability requirements.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. West Virginia receives a very poor score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Seventy percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 9 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 71% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. West Virginia gets a solid mark for its state data system. The state provides educators with access to an interactive school-level database and has a teacher-identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. West Virginia receives a low 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. That is slightly higher than the national average of 65%. However, West Virginia does not have high school exams that gauge college and career readiness.

Technology. West Virginia receives an excellent grade in this category. The state has established a virtual school and offers a computer-based assessment. Still, the state should 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, West Virginia supports common academic standards.