







Wisconsin

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

School Management. Wisconsin does a disappointing job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. The state has below-average academic standards, and 91% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching. The state also does not sanction low-performing schools.

Finance. Overall, Wisconsin earns a middling grade in this category. The state gets below-average marks for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism and for the online accessibility of its financial data. However, districts in Wisconsin have full authority over teacher pay.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Wisconsin 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%. However, Wisconsin requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Wisconsin receives a dismal score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Eighty-four percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 23 percentage points above the national average of 61%. In addition, 75% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

Data. Wisconsin gets an average mark for its state data system. The state does not publicly report college remediation data, but it does provide educators with access to an interactive school-level database for analysis.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Wisconsin 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, the state does not have high school exams that gauge college and career readiness.

Technology. Wisconsin receives an above-average grade in this category. The state has established a virtual school and requires technology testing for teachers. Still, Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin supports common academic standards.

Gold Stars. In the Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation category, Wisconsin receives a gold star for participating in national programs to recruit and certify nontraditional administrators. To receive a gold star, a state must have approved New Leaders for New Schools to propose candidates for state certification.
