K12 ACADEMICS — NATIONAL REFERENCE SERIES

The 50-State Report Card

Complete Edition

A full profile of every state — 50 states + D.C. — across graduation, accountability, school choice, teacher certification & state financial aid. One page per state, per topic.



K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

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WHAT THIS IS

Every state, in full.

Education in America is really **51 different systems**. This complete edition gives **every state (plus D.C.) its own full page** in each of five areas — the key facts, a plain-English summary, and the details that matter — so you can study any state in depth or compare across the country.

THE FIVE SECTIONS

Graduation Requirements	51 state pages
Accountability & Report Cards	51 state pages
School Choice	51 state pages
Teacher Certification	51 state pages
State Financial Aid	51 state pages

A note on accuracy. State rules change often. Each page links to that state's full, regularly-updated guide online; confirm specifics with the state's department of education.

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Five Sections, 255 State Pages.

- Graduation Requirements — Page 05
- Accountability & Report Cards — Page 57
- School Choice — Page 109
- Teacher Certification — Page 161
- State Financial Aid — Page 213

SECTION 01 OF 05

Graduation Requirements

A full page for each of the 50 states and D.C. — the facts, the summary, and what makes each state distinct.





GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 01 OF 51

Alabama

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**24**
Exit exam?	**No (eliminated 2015)**
Diplomas	**Standard + endorsements**
Districts	**May require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Alabama requires 24 credits with no exit exam — the Alabama High School Graduation Exam was eliminated in 2015. Students take state assessments, but a passing score is not required to graduate.



READ ALABAMA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Alaska

AT A GLANCE

Credits	21 (state minimum)
Exit exam?	No
Also	College/career readiness exam...
Districts	Often require more
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Alaska requires a state minimum of 21 credits with no exit exam — the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam was eliminated. Students must take a college/career readiness assessment (but not pass it). Districts often require more.

READ ALASKA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 03 OF 51

Arizona

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**22 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Required	**Civics test (60/100)**
Districts	**Often require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Arizona requires a state minimum of 22 credits with no exit exam — but students must pass the civics test to graduate. Districts frequently require more than the state minimum.

READ ARIZONA'S FULL GUIDE
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 04 OF 51

Arkansas

AT A GLANCE

Units	**22 (Smart Core)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Also	**Computer science & personal...**
Test	**ACT taken statewide**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Arkansas requires 22 units under the Smart Core curriculum with no exit exam. Recent LEARNS Act changes added a computer science credit and reinforced financial literacy.

READ ARKANSAS'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 05 OF 51

California

AT A GLANCE

Exit exam?	**No (repealed in 2015)**
Based on	**Course/credit completion**
State minimum	**Specific required courses**
Districts	**Often require more credits**
Honors	**Golden State Seal; Seal of...**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

California requires students to complete a set of required courses to earn a high school diploma — there is no exit exam (the CAHSEE was repealed in 2015). The state sets minimum course requirements, and districts frequently require more credits, so your local requirements are what ultimately matter.

READ CALIFORNIA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 06 OF 51

Colorado

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**Set by districts**
State role	**Menu of readiness demonstrations**
Exit exam?	**No single exit exam**
Choose from	**SAT/ACT, AP, IB, ASVAB, capstone…**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Colorado is a strong local-control state — districts set the credit requirements. What the state defines is a menu of college- and career-ready demonstrations: students choose one or more options to show they're ready to graduate. There's no single exit exam.

READ COLORADO'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Connecticut

AT A GLANCE

Credits	25
Exit exam?	No
Includes	Mastery-based diploma assessment
Also	Fine arts & financial literacy
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Connecticut requires 25 credits with no exit exam. It emphasizes a mastery-based diploma approach and a specific course distribution across the disciplines.

READ CONNECTICUT'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Delaware

AT A GLANCE	
Credits	24
Exit exam?	No
Also	Career pathway + Student Success...
Districts	May require more
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Delaware requires 24 credits with no exit exam, plus a career pathway (a sequence of related courses) and a Student Success Plan.

READ DELAWARE'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 09 OF 51

Florida

AT A GLANCE

Standard diploma	**24 credits**
Exit exam?	**Yes — Grade 10 ELA + Algebra I EOC**
Accelerated	**18-credit ACCEL option**
Designations	**Scholar & Merit**
Also	**Personal financial literacy**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Florida's standard diploma requires 24 credits, and Florida is one of the few states that still requires passing state assessments to graduate. There are also accelerated options and special designations for high achievers.

READ FLORIDA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 10 OF 51

Georgia

AT A GLANCE

Units	**23 required**
Exit exam?	**No (eliminated)**
Milestones	**Count toward course grade**
Seals	**Biliteracy & others**
Districts	**May require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Georgia requires 23 units to graduate — and there is no exit exam (the Georgia High School Graduation Test was eliminated). End-of-course Georgia Milestones assessments count toward the course grade rather than serving as a separate graduation gate.

READ GEORGIA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 11 OF 51

Hawaii

AT A GLANCE

System	**Single statewide district (HIDOE)**
Credits	**24**
Exit exam?	**No**
Honors	**Academic, CTE & STEM Honors**
Also	**Senior project; transition plan**

OVERVIEW

Hawaii is a single statewide school district (HIDOE), so graduation requirements are uniform: 24 credits with no exit exam. Students complete a senior project and a Personal Transition Plan, and can earn diploma honors.

READ HAWAII'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 12 OF 51

Idaho

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**46 semester credits**
Exit exam?	**No (proficiency via options)**
Required	**College entrance exam (SAT/ACT)**
Also	**Senior project**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Idaho requires 46 semester credits (about 23 year-long credits), a college entrance exam, and a senior project. There's no single exit exam, though students demonstrate proficiency.

READ IDAHO'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 13 OF 51

Illinois

AT A GLANCE

Exit exam?	**No**
Based on	**Course/credit completion**
Civics	**Required course**
Also	**Consumer education / financial...**
Districts	**Often require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Illinois requires students to complete required courses to graduate — there is no exit exam. The state sets minimum course requirements (including civics), and districts commonly add more.

READ ILLINOIS'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 14 OF 51

Indiana

AT A GLANCE

Framework	**Indiana diploma + Graduation...**
Exit exam?	**No single exit exam**
Pathways	**Diploma + employability +...**
New	**Redesigned diploma (phasing in)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Indiana graduation combines a diploma (credits) with Graduation Pathways — and there's no single exit exam. Indiana has also redesigned its diploma around readiness, phasing in for future classes — so confirm what applies to your student.

READ INDIANA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Iowa

AT A GLANCE

Core	4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 3...
Total credits	Set by districts
Exit exam?	No
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Iowa sets minimum core course requirements but leaves the total credit count to districts. There is no exit exam. So your local district's requirements determine the full picture.

READ IOWA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Kansas

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**21 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Districts	**Often require more**
Also	**Individual Plan of Study**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Kansas requires a state minimum of 21 credits with no exit exam. Districts commonly require more, and every student develops an Individual Plan of Study.

READ KANSAS'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Kentucky

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**22 (state minimum)**
Also	**Graduation qualifiers (reading &...**
Demonstrate	**Via state test or alternatives**
Not a strict	**Pass-or-fail exit exam**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Kentucky requires a state minimum of 22 credits, plus "graduation qualifiers" — students must demonstrate basic competency in reading and math through the state assessment or approved alternatives.

READ KENTUCKY'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 18 OF 51

Louisiana

AT A GLANCE

Diplomas	**TOPS University & Jump Start...**
Units	**23—24**
Exit exam?	**Yes — LEAP EOC exams**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Louisiana offers two diploma pathways — the college-prep TOPS University diploma and the Jump Start Career diploma — each requiring about 23–24 units. Louisiana is one of the few states that still requires passing end-of-course exams to graduate.



READ LOUISIANA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Maine

AT A GLANCE

Model	**State minimums + local control**
Exit exam?	**No**
Note	**Proficiency-based mandate repealed**
Districts	**Set specifics**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Maine sets minimum course requirements but leaves much to districts. There is no exit exam. Maine previously mandated a proficiency-based diploma, but that statewide mandate was repealed, returning flexibility to districts.

READ MAINE'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Maryland

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**21 (state minimum)**
Assessments	**MCAP (take; alternatives if not...**
Distinctive	**75 hours of service-learning**
Districts	**Often require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Maryland requires a state minimum of 21 credits, participation in state MCAP assessments, and a distinctive student service-learning requirement. Districts (Maryland has 24) often require more.

READ MARYLAND'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Massachusetts

AT A GLANCE

Big change	**MCAS graduation test repealed...**
Now	**Districts certify competency**
Recommended	**MassCore course of study**
MCAS	**Still taken, not required to pass**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Massachusetts made a major change in 2024: voters repealed the requirement to pass the MCAS to graduate (starting with the class of 2025). Now, districts certify that students have met state standards through coursework. The MassCore program of study is the state's recommended course sequence.

READ MASSACHUSETTS'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 22 OF 51

Michigan

AT A GLANCE

Framework	**Michigan Merit Curriculum**
Exit exam?	**No**
Includes	**Algebra II, 2 world language**
Also	**Online learning; financial...**
Districts	**Set total credits**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Michigan graduation follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) — a set of required courses with no exit exam. It's known for including Algebra II, two years of world language, an online learning experience, and a financial-literacy requirement.

READ MICHIGAN'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 23 OF 51

Minnesota

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**21.5 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Tests	**MCA taken, not required to pass**
Districts	**Often require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Minnesota requires a state minimum of about 21.5 credits with no exit exam — the state removed passing-test graduation requirements. Students take the MCA assessments, but a passing score is not required to graduate.

READ MINNESOTA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 24 OF 51

Mississippi

AT A GLANCE

Units	**24 (Traditional)**
Endorsements	**Academic, Distinguished, CTE**
Exit exam?	**No strict single exit exam**
Assessment	**Subject-area tests with options**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Mississippi requires 24 units for the Traditional diploma, with optional endorsements (Academic, Distinguished Academic, and CTE). Students take subject-area tests, but Mississippi provides multiple options to meet the assessment requirement rather than a single pass-or-fail exit exam.

READ MISSISSIPPI'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 25 OF 51

Missouri

AT A GLANCE

Units	**24 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Required	**U.S. & Missouri...**
Also	**CPR training**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Missouri requires a state minimum of 24 units with no exit exam — but students must pass civics/constitution tests and complete a few other requirements. Districts often require more.

READ MISSOURI'S FULL GUIDE
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 26 OF 51

Montana

AT A GLANCE

Units	**20 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Districts	**Set most requirements**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Montana sets a state minimum of 20 units with no exit exam, and — as a strong local-control state — districts set most of the specifics.

READ MONTANA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Nebraska

AT A GLANCE

Model	**State minimums + local control**
Exit exam?	**No**
Districts	**Set most requirements**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Nebraska is a strong local-control state: it sets some minimum requirements, but districts determine most of the credits and courses. There is no exit exam.

READ NEBRASKA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 28 OF 51

Nevada

AT A GLANCE

Diplomas	**Standard, Advanced, College &...**
Credits	**~23 (Standard)**
Exit exam?	**No (passing not required)**
Also	**ACT taken statewide**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Nevada offers several diplomas — Standard, Advanced, and College and Career Ready — with the Standard diploma requiring about 23 credits. Nevada students take end-of-course exams and the ACT, but a passing score is not required to graduate.

READ NEVADA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

New Hampshire

AT A GLANCE

Model	**Competency-based**
Credits	**20 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Districts	**Often require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

New Hampshire is a national leader in competency-based education: students earn credit by demonstrating competencies, not just seat time. The state minimum is 20 credits, with no exit exam — and districts often require more.

READ NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FULL GUIDE
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 30 OF 51

New Jersey

AT A GLANCE	
Credits	120
Exit exam?	Yes — NJGPA (ELA & math)
Alternatives	SAT/ACT/etc. concordant scores
Also	Financial literacy required
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

New Jersey requires 120 credits and is one of the few states that still requires a graduation assessment — the NJGPA. Students must demonstrate proficiency in ELA and math (or use an approved alternative).

READ NEW JERSEY'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 31 OF 51

New Mexico

AT A GLANCE

Units	**24**
Exit exam?	**No single exit exam**
Competency	**Demonstrated via multiple measures**
Also	**Next Step Plan each year**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

New Mexico requires 24 units and a demonstration of competency in core areas — but there's no single pass-or-fail exit exam. Students show competency through multiple measures and complete a yearly Next Step Plan.

READ NEW MEXICO'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



New York

AT A GLANCE

Currently	22 units + Regents exams
Diplomas	Local, Regents, Regents Advanced
Big change	Regents exam requirement being...
New system	NY Inspires / Portrait of a...
First new cohort	~grade 9 in 2027
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

New York is in the middle of a major overhaul of its graduation requirements. Currently, students earn a diploma with 22 units of credit and by passing a set of Regents exams. But the state is phasing out the Regents-exam requirement and moving to a single, competency-based diploma under its "NY Inspires" / Portrait of a...

READ NEW YORK'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 33 OF 51

North Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Framework	**Future-Ready Core**
Credits	**22 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
EOC tests	**Count toward course grade**
Districts	**Often require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

North Carolina uses the Future-Ready Core course of study, requiring a state minimum of 22 credits — with no exit exam. End-of-course (EOC) tests count as part of the course grade, not as a separate gate.

READ NORTH CAROLINA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



North Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Units	22
Exit exam?	No
Framework	Choice Ready
Ready in	Post-secondary, workforce or...
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

North Dakota requires 22 units with no exit exam, organized around the Choice Ready framework — students build essential skills plus readiness in a post-secondary, workforce, or military track.

READ NORTH DAKOTA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 35 OF 51

Ohio

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**20 minimum**
Exit test?	**Yes — competency in Algebra I &...**
Plus	**Two graduation seals**
Backups	**Alternative competency...**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Ohio requires 20 credits plus two additional pieces: demonstrating competency (through state tests or alternatives) and earning two graduation seals. Ohio is one of the states that still ties graduation to assessment results.

READ OHIO'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Oklahoma

AT A GLANCE

Units	**23**
Exit exam?	**No (EOI exams dropped)**
Required	**ICAP (career/academic plan)**
Districts	**May require more**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Oklahoma requires 23 units with no exit exam — the end-of-instruction (EOI) exams were removed as a graduation requirement. Students complete an Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP).

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 37 OF 51

Oregon

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**24**
Essential Skills	**Proficiency requirement suspended**
Exit exam?	**No (proficiency paused)**
Also	**Education plan & career-related...**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Oregon requires 24 credits plus personalized learning requirements. Notably, Oregon has suspended its "Essential Skills" proficiency requirement (demonstrating reading, writing, and math proficiency), so students are not currently required to pass a proficiency test to graduate — confirm the current status with your district.

READ OREGON'S FULL GUIDE
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Pennsylvania

AT A GLANCE

Statewide	**Pathways system (Act 158)**
Assessment	**Keystone Exams (one pathway)**
Not a strict	**Exit exam — multiple pathways**
Credits	**Set by districts**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Pennsylvania uses a flexible pathways system (under Act 158) to demonstrate readiness for graduation, rather than a single exit exam. Students can meet the requirement through one of several pathways — and districts set the credit requirements.

READ PENNSYLVANIA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Rhode Island

AT A GLANCE	
Credits	~20 (Carnegie units)
Exit exam?	No
Proficiency	Via multiple pathways
Also	Individual Learning Plan
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Rhode Island requires about 20 Carnegie units with no exit exam (the state removed the requirement to pass a state test). Students demonstrate proficiency through multiple pathways and complete an Individual Learning Plan.

READ RHODE ISLAND'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 40 OF 51

South Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Units	**24**
Exit exam?	**No**
EOC tests	**Count 20% of course grade**
Diplomas	**Standard + Seal options**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

South Carolina requires 24 units with no exit exam. End-of-course (EOCEP) tests count as 20% of the final course grade, not as a separate graduation gate.

READ SOUTH CAROLINA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



South Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Units	22
Exit exam?	No
Endorsements	Advanced & Career
Also	Personal finance
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

South Dakota requires 22 units with no exit exam. Students can earn Advanced or Career endorsements, and personal finance is part of the requirements.

READ SOUTH DAKOTA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Tennessee

AT A GLANCE	
Credits	22
Exit exam?	No
EOC tests	Count toward course grade
Also	ACT/SAT required
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Tennessee requires 22 credits with no exit exam. End-of-course (TCAP/EOC) tests count as a portion of the final course grade, and students must take the ACT or SAT.

READ TENNESSEE'S FULL GUIDE
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 43 OF 51

Texas

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Foundation High School Program**
Credits	**22 (foundation) / 26 (with...**
Exit exam?	**Yes — 5 STAAR EOC exams**
Endorsements	**5 areas to choose from**
Top honor	**Distinguished Level of Achievement**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Texas graduation runs on the Foundation High School Program — a base of 22 credits that students build on by choosing an endorsement (reaching 26 credits). Texas is one of the few states that still requires passing end-of-course exams to graduate.

READ TEXAS'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Utah

AT A GLANCE	
Credits	24
Exit exam?	No
Also	Financial literacy & digital...
Districts	May require more
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Utah requires 24 credits with no exit exam. Requirements include financial literacy and digital studies, and districts may add more.

READ UTAH'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Vermont

AT A GLANCE	
Model	**Proficiency-based diploma**
Exit exam?	**No**
Demonstrate	**Proficiency in required areas**
Districts	**Set specifics**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Vermont uses a proficiency-based graduation system: students earn a diploma by demonstrating proficiency against state standards (Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements), not just seat time. There's no exit exam, and districts implement the specifics.

READ VERMONT'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Diplomas	**Standard (22) & Advanced (26)**
Exit exam?	**Yes — verified credits via SOL**
Also	**Virtual course, CPR, career ed**
Seals	**Multiple diploma seals**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Virginia offers two main diplomas — the Standard Diploma (22 standard units) and the Advanced Studies Diploma (26). Virginia still requires "verified credits", meaning students must pass certain Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course tests (or approved substitutes).

READ VIRGINIA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 47 OF 51

Washington

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**24 (Career & College Ready)**
Assessment	**Graduation pathway (choose one)**
Plan	**High School and Beyond Plan**
Not a single	**Exit exam**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Washington requires 24 credits (the Career and College Ready framework), a High School and Beyond Plan, and completion of a graduation pathway — but there's no single exit exam: students choose from several pathway options.

READ WASHINGTON'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Washington, D.C.

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**24 (Carnegie units)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Distinctive	**100 hours of community service**
Agency	**OSSE**
Confirm with	**Your school**

OVERVIEW

Washington, D.C. requires 24 credits and a distinctive 100 hours of community service to graduate, with no exit exam. Requirements are set by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).

READ WASHINGTON, D.C.'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 49 OF 51

West Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Credits	~24
Exit exam?	No
Also	Personalized Education Plan
Districts	May require more
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

West Virginia requires about 24 credits with no exit exam, and every student develops a Personalized Education Plan.

READ WEST VIRGINIA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS — 50 OF 51

Wisconsin

AT A GLANCE

Credits	**22 (state minimum)**
Exit exam?	**No**
Required	**Civics test (60/100)**
Also	**ACT taken statewide**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin requires a state minimum of 22 credits with no exit exam — but students must pass a civics test to graduate. Districts often require more.



READ WISCONSIN'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Wyoming

AT A GLANCE

Required	4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 3...
Exit exam?	No
Scholarship	Hathaway Success Curriculum
Credits	Total set by districts
Confirm with	Your district

OVERVIEW

Wyoming sets minimum required courses but leaves the total credits to districts, with no exit exam. Students aiming for the Hathaway Scholarship follow the Hathaway Success Curriculum.

READ WYOMING'S FULL GUIDE
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SECTION 02 OF 05

Accountability & Report Cards

A full page for each of the 50 states and D.C. — the facts, the summary, and what makes each state distinct.



Alabama

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F letter grades**
Based on	**A points system across indicators**
Tool	**Alabama School Report Card**
Look up at	**reportcard.alsde.edu**

OVERVIEW

Alabama gives each school an A-F grade on the Alabama School Report Card, calculated from a points system across several indicators.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Alaska

AT A GLANCE	
Format	Report card + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	Alaska DEED Report Card
Look up at	education.alaska.gov

OVERVIEW

Alaska publishes a state report card and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Arizona

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F letter grades**
Based on	**A points system across measures**
Tool	**AZ School Report Cards / A-F**
Look up at	**azed.gov / azreportcards.azed.gov**

OVERVIEW

Arizona gives each school an A-F letter grade, calculated from a points system across several measures and published by the Arizona Department of Education.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Arkansas

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F (from the ESSA School Index)**
Tool	**My School Info**
Look up at	**myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov**

OVERVIEW

Arkansas gives each school an ESSA School Index score that maps to an A-F letter grade, published on the My School Info portal.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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California

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Color dashboard (5 colors)**
Tool	**California School Dashboard**
Also	**School Accountability Report Card...**
No single	**A-F grade**
Look up at	**caschooldashboard.org**

OVERVIEW

California does not give schools a single letter grade or star rating. Instead, it uses the California School Dashboard — a color-coded report across multiple measures — plus each school's School Accountability Report Card (SARC).

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Colorado

AT A GLANCE

Format	School Performance Frameworks...
Ratings	Performance, Improvement,...
Tool	SchoolView / SPF
Look up at	cde.state.co.us

OVERVIEW

Colorado rates schools with School Performance Frameworks (SPF), which assign a plan type based on performance — rather than a letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Connecticut

AT A GLANCE

Format	Next Generation Accountability...
Scale	Points across 12 indicators (a %)
Tool	EdSight
Look up at	edsight.ct.gov

OVERVIEW

Connecticut rates schools with the Next Generation Accountability System — an index score (a percentage of possible points across a dozen indicators) — published on EdSight, rather than a letter grade or stars.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Delaware

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Star ratings (1–5)**
Tool	**Delaware Report Card**
Look up at	**reportcard.doe.k12.de.us**

OVERVIEW

Delaware rates schools with star ratings (1 to 5 stars) on the Delaware Report Card, based on a points system across indicators.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Florida

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F school grades**
Based on	**Achievement, learning gains, grad...**
Tool	**FLDOE school grades**
Long-running	**Since the late 1990s**
Look up at	**fldoe.org**

OVERVIEW

Florida gives each school an A-F grade — one of the longest-running letter-grade systems in the country. Grades are published each year by the Florida Department of Education.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Georgia

AT A GLANCE

Format	**CCRPI index (0–100)**
Components	**Content Mastery, Progress,...**
Tool	**Georgia CCRPI / report cards**
Look up at	**gadoe.org / gosa.georgia.gov**

OVERVIEW

Georgia rates schools with the CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index) — a 0–100 score built from several components, rather than a letter grade or stars.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Hawaii

AT A GLANCE	
Format	Strive HI (index +...
System	Strive HI Performance System
Statewide	Single district (HIDOE)
Look up at	hawaiipublicschools.org

OVERVIEW

Hawaii — a single statewide district — rates schools with the Strive HI Performance System, which produces an index score and classifications rather than a letter grade or stars.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Idaho

AT A GLANCE

Format	Report card + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	Idaho Report Card
Look up at	Idahoschools.org

OVERVIEW

Idaho publishes the Idaho Report Card and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Illinois

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Summative designations (4 tiers)**
Tiers	**Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted,...**
Tool	**Illinois Report Card**
Look up at	**illinoisreportcard.com**

OVERVIEW

Illinois assigns each school a summative designation (a tiered label, not a letter grade or stars) and publishes a rich Illinois Report Card for every school.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Indiana

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F (paused/redesigned)**
Status	**Resuming ~2026–27**
Interim	**Federal ESSA designations**
Tool	**Indiana GPS / report cards**
Look up at	**indianagps.doe.in.gov**

OVERVIEW

Indiana historically used A-F letter grades, but the state paused and is redesigning its A-F system (with new grades expected to resume around 2026–27). In the meantime, schools carry federal ESSA designations, and data is shown on the Indiana GPS dashboard.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Iowa

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Rating levels (6)**
Ratings	**Exceptional – Priority**
Tool	**Iowa School Performance Profiles**
Look up at	**iaschoolperformance.gov**

OVERVIEW

Iowa rates schools with the Iowa School Performance Profiles, which assign one of six rating levels based on ESSA indicators — rather than a letter grade or stars.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Kansas

AT A GLANCE

Format	Report card data + KESA...
No	Single grade or stars
Accreditation	Kansas Education Systems...
Tool	Kansas Building Report Card
Look up at	ksreportcard.ksde.org

OVERVIEW

Kansas does not assign a single summary grade or star rating. Instead it publishes the Kansas Building Report Card (data) and accredits schools through the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) process.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Kentucky

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Color/star rating (5 levels)**
Colors	**Blue (highest) – Red (lowest)**
Tool	**Kentucky School Report Card**
Look up at	**kyschoolreportcard.com**

OVERVIEW

Kentucky rates schools with a color and star system (five levels) on the Kentucky School Report Card, rather than a letter grade.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Louisiana

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F (from a Performance Score)**
Scale	**School Performance Score (0–150)**
Tool	**Louisiana School Finder**
Look up at	**louisianaschools.com**

OVERVIEW

Louisiana gives each school a School Performance Score (SPS) that maps to an A-F letter grade, published on the Louisiana School Finder.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Maine

AT A GLANCE	
Format	Data reporting + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	Maine DOE Data Dashboard
Look up at	maine.gov/doe

OVERVIEW

Maine publishes school and district data and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Maryland

AT A GLANCE	
Format	**Star ratings (1–5)**
Based on	**A points/percentile system**
Tool	**Maryland School Report Card**
Look up at	**reportcard.msde.maryland.gov**

OVERVIEW

Maryland rates schools with star ratings (from 1 to 5 stars) on the Maryland School Report Card, based on a points system across multiple measures.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Massachusetts

AT A GLANCE	
Format	**Classification + percentile**
Classes	**Requiring assistance/intervention…**
Also	**Accountability percentile (1–99)**
Tool	**MA School & District Profiles**
Look up at	**profiles.doe.mass.edu**

OVERVIEW

Massachusetts rates schools with an accountability classification and an accountability percentile, published on the School and District Profiles — rather than a letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Michigan

AT A GLANCE

Format	**MI School Index + dashboard**
Scale	**0–100 index**
No	**Single letter grade or stars**
Tool	**MI School Data**
Look up at	**mischooldata.org**

OVERVIEW

Michigan uses the MI School Index — a 0–100 score across multiple components — plus a parent dashboard, rather than a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Minnesota

AT A GLANCE	
Format	North Star (support...
No	Single grade or stars
Identifies	Schools for...
Tool	Minnesota Report Card
Look up at	rc.education.mn.gov

OVERVIEW

Minnesota uses the North Star accountability system, which identifies schools for support rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating, and publishes the detailed Minnesota Report Card.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Mississippi

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F letter grades**
Based on	**A points system across indicators**
Tool	**MDE report cards**
Look up at	**mdek12.org**

OVERVIEW

Mississippi gives each school an A-F grade under its statewide accountability system, calculated from a points system across several indicators.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Missouri

AT A GLANCE

Format	APR points/percentage (MSIP)
Scale	Percentage of points earned
No	Single letter grade or stars
Tool	Missouri School Report Card
Look up at	apps.dese.mo.gov/MCDS

OVERVIEW

Missouri rates schools and districts with the Annual Performance Report (APR) under the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) — a percentage of possible points earned, rather than a letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Montana

AT A GLANCE

Format	Data reporting + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	GEMS / report cards
Look up at	opi.mt.gov

OVERVIEW

Montana publishes school and district data and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Nebraska

AT A GLANCE

Format	**AQuESTT classifications (4 levels)**
Levels	**Excellent, Great, Good, Needs...**
Tool	**Nebraska Education Profile (NEP)**
Look up at	**nep.education.ne.gov**

OVERVIEW

Nebraska rates schools with AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow) — classifying schools into levels — and publishes the Nebraska Education Profile (NEP).

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Nevada

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Star ratings (1–5)**
Framework	**Nevada School Performance...**
Tool	**Nevada Report Card**
Look up at	**nevadareportcard.nv.gov**

OVERVIEW

Nevada rates schools with star ratings (1 to 5 stars) under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), published on the Nevada Report Card.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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New Hampshire

AT A GLANCE	
Format	Report card + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	NH iPlatform / school profiles
Look up at	education.nh.gov

OVERVIEW

New Hampshire publishes school report cards / profiles and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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New Jersey

AT A GLANCE	
Format	School Performance Reports...
Designations	ESSA CSI/TSI/ATSI
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	NJ School Performance Reports
Look up at	rc.doe.state.nj.us

OVERVIEW

New Jersey publishes detailed School Performance Reports for every school and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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New Mexico

AT A GLANCE

Format	**NM Vistas dashboard + support**
Note	**Moved away from A-F**
Tool	**New Mexico Vistas**
Look up at	**newmexicoschools.com**

OVERVIEW

New Mexico moved away from A-F grades to the New Mexico Vistas dashboard, which shows performance and highlights schools for support — rather than assigning a single letter grade.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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New York

AT A GLANCE

Format	**ESSA designations (tiered labels)**
Statuses	**Good Standing, CSI, TSI, ATSI**
No	**Letter grade or stars**
Tool	**NYSED data site / report cards**
Look up at	**data.nysed.gov**

OVERVIEW

New York does not use letter grades or star ratings. Instead, it assigns ESSA accountability designations — schools are either in Good Standing or identified for support — and publishes detailed report cards.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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North Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F school performance grades**
Scale	**0–100 mapped to a letter**
Mix	**80% achievement, 20% growth**
Tool	**NC School Report Cards**
Look up at	**ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com**

OVERVIEW

North Carolina gives each school an A-F performance grade, published on the NC School Report Cards. The grade is based mostly on test achievement, with a portion for growth.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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North Dakota

AT A GLANCE	
Format	Report card + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	ND Insights
Look up at	insights.nd.gov

OVERVIEW

North Dakota publishes the ND Insights report card and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Ohio

AT A GLANCE	
Format	**Star ratings (1–5)**
Components	**Achievement, Progress, Grad, Gap...**
Tool	**Ohio School Report Cards**
Look up at	**reportcard.education.ohio.gov**

OVERVIEW

Ohio rates schools with star ratings (from 1 to 5 stars, in half-star increments), a change made in 2023 from the old A-F system. Ratings appear on the Ohio School Report Cards.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Oklahoma

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F letter grades**
Based on	**A points system across indicators**
Tool	**Oklahoma School Report Cards**
Look up at	**oklaschools.com**

OVERVIEW

Oklahoma gives each school an A-F grade on the Oklahoma School Report Cards, calculated from a points system across several indicators.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Oregon

AT A GLANCE

Format	Rating levels + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	At-A-Glance School Profiles
Look up at	oregon.gov/ode

OVERVIEW

Oregon publishes At-A-Glance School Profiles and rates schools on each measure using levels, then identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Pennsylvania

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Future Ready PA Index (dashboard)**
No	**Single grade or stars**
Shows	**Achievement, growth, graduation,...**
Tool	**Future Ready PA Index**
Look up at	**futurereadypa.org**

OVERVIEW

Pennsylvania uses the Future Ready PA Index — a dashboard of indicators for each school — rather than a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

READ PENNSYLVANIA'S FULL GUIDE
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Rhode Island

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Star ratings (1–5)**
Tool	**Rhode Island Report Card**
Look up at	**reportcard.ride.ri.gov**

OVERVIEW

Rhode Island rates schools with star ratings (1 to 5 stars) on the Rhode Island Report Card, based on a points system across indicators.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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South Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Descriptive ratings (5 levels)**
Ratings	**Excellent, Good, Average, Below...**
Tool	**SC School Report Card**
Look up at	**screportcards.com**

OVERVIEW

South Carolina gives each school an overall rating using descriptive levels (not letter grades or stars) on the SC School Report Card.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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South Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Format	**School Performance Index (points)**
Tool	**South Dakota Report Card**
Also	**Support identification**
Look up at	**sdschools.sd.gov**

OVERVIEW

South Dakota rates schools using a School Performance Index (SPI) — a points/index score — on the South Dakota Report Card, and identifies schools for support under ESSA.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Tennessee

AT A GLANCE	
Format	**A-F letter grades**
Based on	**Achievement, growth, gaps &...**
Tool	**TN School Report Card**
Look up at	**reportcard.tnedu.gov**

OVERVIEW

Tennessee assigns each school an A-F letter grade (one of the states that report an overall letter grade), published on the TN School Report Card.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Texas

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F letter grades**
Domains	**Achievement, Progress, Closing...**
Tool	**TXschools.gov**
Since	**2017 (HB 22)**
Look up at	**txschools.gov**

OVERVIEW

Texas rates every school and district with an A-F letter grade (established in 2017). Much like a report card, letter grades in key areas combine into an overall grade, published on TXschools.gov.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Utah

AT A GLANCE

Format	**Report-card dashboard**
Note	**Utah moved away from A-F**
Tool	**Utah School Report Card**
Look up at	**utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov**

OVERVIEW

Utah publishes a school report card showing performance across measures. Utah moved away from a single A-F letter grade toward a dashboard-style report — so you read the measures rather than one grade.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Vermont

AT A GLANCE

Format	Data reporting + support...
No	Single grade or stars
Also	Education Quality Reviews
Tool	Vermont Education Dashboard
Look up at	education.vermont.gov

OVERVIEW

Vermont publishes school data and conducts Education Quality Reviews, and identifies lower-performing schools for support under ESSA — rather than assigning a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Format	**School accreditation**
Statuses	**Accredited / Accredited with...**
Also	**School Quality Profiles**
Tool	**VDOE School Quality Profiles**
Look up at	**schoolquality.virginia.gov**

OVERVIEW

Virginia rates schools through a school accreditation system (based on performance indicators) and publishes School Quality Profiles — rather than a letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Washington

AT A GLANCE

Format	WA School Improvement Framework
Scale	1–10 index
Also	State Report Card
Tool	WA Report Card
Look up at	washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12...

OVERVIEW

Washington uses the Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF) — an index (roughly a 1–10 scale) that identifies schools for support — along with a detailed State Report Card, rather than a letter grade or stars.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Washington, D.C.

AT A GLANCE

Format	**STAR framework (1–5 stars)**
Tool	**DC School Report Card**
Agency	**OSSE**
Look up at	**dcschoolreportcard.org**

OVERVIEW

Washington, D.C. rates schools with the STAR framework — a 1 to 5 star rating — on the DC School Report Card, administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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West Virginia

AT A GLANCE	
Format	Balanced Scorecard (color...
Colors	Green / yellow / red by measure
No	Single grade or stars
Tool	WV Balanced Scorecard
Look up at	zoomwv.k12.wv.us

OVERVIEW

West Virginia uses the WV Balanced Scorecard, which shows each measure with a color (green/yellow/red) — rather than a single letter grade or star rating.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Wisconsin

AT A GLANCE	
Format	0–100 score + star rating
Ratings	Significantly Exceeds – Fails to...
Tool	Wisconsin School Report Cards
Look up at	apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin publishes a School Report Card for every school with an overall accountability score (0–100) and a corresponding rating (shown with stars).

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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Wyoming

AT A GLANCE

Format	WAEA performance ratings (4...
Levels	Exceeding – Not Meeting...
Law	Wyoming Accountability in...
Tool	WDE report cards
Look up at	edu.wyoming.gov

OVERVIEW

Wyoming rates schools with School Performance Ratings under the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) — assigning each school one of four performance levels.

KEY POINTS

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency

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SECTION 03 OF 05

School Choice

A full page for each of the 50 states and D.C. — the facts, the summary, and what makes each state distinct.



SCHOOL CHOICE — 01 OF 51

Alabama

AT A GLANCE

Program	CHOOSE Act (refundable tax...
Amount	~$7,000 per student
Phase-in	Income-prioritized first, broader...
Also	Existing tax-credit scholarships
Confirm with	The state program

OVERVIEW

Alabama enacted the CHOOSE Act, a refundable tax-credit / education-savings program (about $7,000 per student) that is phasing in — prioritizing lower-income families and students with disabilities first, then broadening over time. Alabama also has existing tax-credit scholarship programs and a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 02 OF 51

Alaska

AT A GLANCE

Private voucher/ESA?	**No traditional program**
Distinctive	**Correspondence-school allotments**
Note	**Allotment use recently litigated**
Public choice	**Charters, homeschool,...**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Alaska does not have a traditional private-school voucher or ESA. It has a distinctive correspondence-school allotment system — families enrolled in state correspondence (homeschool) programs receive an allotment for approved educational materials and services. How those allotments may be used (including for private-school...

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 03 OF 51

Arizona

AT A GLANCE

Flagship	**Empowerment Scholarship Accounts…**
Type	**Universal ESA (first in U.S.,…**
Also	**4 tax-credit scholarship programs**
Plus	**Large public charter sector**
Confirm with	**The ESA program**

OVERVIEW

Arizona is a school-choice pioneer: it created the nation's first universal Education Savings Account (ESA) in 2022, and also has tax-credit scholarship programs and one of the largest public charter sectors in the country.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 04 OF 51

Arkansas

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Children's Educational Freedom...**
Type	**Universal ESA (LEARNS Act)**
Status	**Fully phased in (2025–26)**
Note	**Facing a legal challenge**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Arkansas created the Children's Educational Freedom Account (ESA) through the LEARNS Act. After a phase-in, it became universal (all K-12 students eligible) in 2025–26. It provides funds for private-school tuition and approved expenses. Arkansas also has a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 05 OF 51

California

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Charters, magnets, open enrollment**
Charters	**Among the most in the nation**
Homeschool	**Legal (via several options)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

California does not have a statewide private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). But California offers extensive public school choice — it has one of the largest charter-school sectors in the country, plus magnets and open enrollment.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 06 OF 51

Colorado

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Very strong open enrollment +...**
Open enrollment	**One of the most robust in the U.S.**
Homeschool	**Legal (with notice)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Colorado does not have a statewide private-school-choice program (a local Douglas County voucher was struck down years ago). But Colorado has some of the strongest public school choice in the country — robust open enrollment and a large charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 07 OF 51

Connecticut

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Magnets, Open Choice, charters**
Magnets	**A major regional magnet system**
Homeschool	**Legal**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Connecticut does not have a private-school-choice program. It has notable public choice, especially its regional magnet schools and the Open Choice program (which lets students attend public school in another district), plus charters.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 08 OF 51

Delaware

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Strong statewide open enrollment**
Also	**Charters & vo-tech schools**
Homeschool	**Legal (registered)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Delaware does not have a private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). But it has strong public choice: a statewide school-choice / open-enrollment law, a charter sector, and vocational-technical schools.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 09 OF 51

Florida

AT A GLANCE

Programs	**Family Empowerment + FL Tax Credit**
Type	**Scholarships/ESAs…**
Scale	**Among the largest in the U.S.**
Admin	**Step Up For Students & others**
Plus	**Extensive public charters**
Confirm with	**The scholarship organization**

OVERVIEW

Florida has among the broadest school-choice programs in the country. Its scholarships are universal-eligible (open to essentially all K-12 students, with priority for lower-income families), and are administered by scholarship-funding organizations like Step Up For Students. Florida also has a very large public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 10 OF 51

Georgia

AT A GLANCE

Newest	**Georgia Promise Scholarship (ESA)**
ESA eligibility	**Zoned to low-performing schools**
Also	**Tax-credit scholarship +…**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Georgia has several choice programs: the newer Georgia Promise Scholarship (an ESA), a long-running tax-credit scholarship, and the Special Needs Scholarship (a voucher). It also has a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 11 OF 51

Hawaii

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
System	**Single statewide district**
Public choice	**Charters & geographic exceptions**
Homeschool	**Legal (with notice)**
Confirm with	**HIDOE**

OVERVIEW

Hawaii — a single statewide school district — does not have a private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). It offers public choice through charter schools and a geographic exception process (limited transfers between public schools).

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 12 OF 51

Idaho

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit**
Type	**Refundable tax credit (new, 2025)**
Amount	**Up to $5,000 ($7,500 for...**
Cap	**$50M annually; income priority**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Idaho enacted its first private-school-choice program in 2025 — the Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit, a refundable tax credit for private and home education expenses. It was upheld by the Idaho Supreme Court in early 2026. Idaho also has a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 13 OF 51

Illinois

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**Program expired (2024)**
Was	**Invest in Kids tax-credit...**
Now	**Public choice only**
Public choice	**Charters, magnets, open enrollment**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Illinois' private-school-choice program has expired. The state's Invest in Kids tax-credit scholarship program ended on January 1, 2024, making Illinois the first state to roll back a private-choice program. Illinois still offers public choice (charters, magnets, open enrollment).

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 14 OF 51

Indiana

AT A GLANCE

Flagship	**Choice Scholarship (voucher)**
Change	**Income cap removed — broadly...**
Also	**Education Scholarship Account...**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Indiana has one of the older, larger voucher programs — the Choice Scholarship — and it recently removed its income cap, making it broadly available. Indiana also has an Education Scholarship Account (ESA) and a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 15 OF 51

Iowa

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Students First ESA**
Type	**Universal ESA (fully phased in)**
Amount	**~$7,800+ per student**
Plus	**Public open enrollment & charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Iowa enacted the Students First Education Savings Account (ESA) program, a universal ESA that (as of 2025–26) is available to all K-12 students. It provides a state-funded account for private-school tuition and approved expenses. Iowa also has public open enrollment and a newer charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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Kansas

AT A GLANCE	
Program	Low Income Students Scholarship...
Type	Tax-credit scholarship...
No	ESA or voucher
Plus	Public open enrollment
Confirm with	A scholarship organization

OVERVIEW

Kansas has the Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program — a tax-credit scholarship for lower-income students — plus public open enrollment. It does not currently have an ESA or voucher (broader proposals have been debated but not enacted).

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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Kentucky

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No — amendment failed (2024)**
Background	**Courts blocked prior programs**
Public choice	**Open enrollment; charter law**
Homeschool	**Legal**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Kentucky does not currently have a private-school-choice program. The state's courts had blocked earlier attempts (finding them inconsistent with the constitution), and a 2024 ballot amendment that would have allowed public funds for private schooling failed. Kentucky offers public choice (open enrollment; a charter-school...

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 18 OF 51

Louisiana

AT A GLANCE

Program	**LA GATOR Scholarship (ESA)**
Replaces	**The former statewide voucher**
Phase-in	**Prioritized first, broadening**
Plus	**Public charters (esp. New Orleans)**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Louisiana enacted the LA GATOR Scholarship, an Education Savings Account (ESA) program that is phasing in and replacing the state's former private-school voucher. Louisiana also has a significant public charter sector (especially in New Orleans).

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 19 OF 51

Maine

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Town tuitioning**
How	**Towns without schools pay tuition...**
Since Carson v. Makin	**Can include religious schools**
No	**Statewide ESA or voucher**
Confirm with	**Your town/SAU**

OVERVIEW

Maine has a distinctive, long-standing town tuitioning system: towns that do not operate their own public school at some grade levels pay tuition for their students to attend another public school or an approved private school. Since the U.S. Supreme Court's Carson v. Makin (2022) decision, eligible private schools can include...

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 20 OF 51

Maryland

AT A GLANCE

Program	**BOOST scholarship**
Type	**Voucher/scholarship...**
For	**Lower-income students**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Maryland has the BOOST program (Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today) — a scholarship/voucher for low-income students to attend participating private schools — plus a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 21 OF 51

Massachusetts

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Charters + Interdistrict School...**
Charters	**A well-known public charter sector**
Homeschool	**Legal (approved by district)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Massachusetts does not have a private-school-choice program. It offers strong public choice: a well-known charter sector and the Interdistrict School Choice program (attend a participating public school in another district, tuition-free).

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 22 OF 51

Michigan

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No (constitutional ban)**
Public choice	**Charters & Schools of Choice**
Charters	**A large public charter sector**
Open enrollment	**Schools of Choice program**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Michigan does not have a private-school-choice program — the state constitution bars public funding for private-school tuition (and voters have declined to change it). Michigan does offer robust public choice: a large charter sector and the Schools of Choice open-enrollment program.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 23 OF 51

Minnesota

AT A GLANCE

Programs	**Education deduction & credit**
Type	**Individual tax benefits (not...**
Oldest	**Tax deduction dates to 1955**
Plus	**Strong public open enrollment +...**
Confirm with	**MN Dept. of Revenue**

OVERVIEW

Minnesota does not have vouchers or ESAs, but it has the oldest education tax benefits in the country — the K-12 Education Subtraction (deduction) and the K-12 Education Credit — plus one of the earliest and strongest public open-enrollment systems and a large charter sector (Minnesota created the first charter school).

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 24 OF 51

Mississippi

AT A GLANCE

Programs	**Special-needs ESAs…**
Includes	**Dyslexia & speech-language…**
Type	**Targeted ESAs (not universal)**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Mississippi's private-choice programs are primarily targeted to students with specific needs — including the Mississippi ESA for students with disabilities and scholarships for dyslexia and speech-language therapy. Mississippi also has a public charter sector. It does not currently have a universal program.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 25 OF 51

Missouri

AT A GLANCE

Program	**MOScholars (Empowerment...**
Type	**Tax-credit-funded scholarship/ESA**
Note	**Under legal challenge**
Plus	**Public charters (KC & St. Louis)**
Confirm with	**An educational-assistance org**

OVERVIEW

Missouri has a tax-credit-funded scholarship program — MOScholars (Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts) — that helps eligible students with private-school and education expenses, plus a public charter sector in Kansas City and St. Louis.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 26 OF 51

Montana

AT A GLANCE

Programs	**Special-needs ESA + tax-credit...**
Type	**Targeted/limited**
Note	**New special-needs ESA; confirm...**
Plus	**Public charters (newer)**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Montana has a tax-credit scholarship program and a newer Education Savings Account for students with disabilities. These are targeted/limited rather than universal. Montana also has a newer public charter framework.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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Nebraska

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No — repealed by referendum (2024)**
Was	**Opportunity Scholarships…**
Public choice	**Option enrollment; charter…**
Homeschool	**Legal (as exempt schools)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Nebraska does not currently have a private-school-choice program. The legislature had created a tax-credit scholarship program (Opportunity Scholarships), but voters repealed it by referendum in November 2024. Nebraska offers public choice through option enrollment.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 28 OF 51

Nevada

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Opportunity Scholarship...**
Type	**Tax-credit scholarship (capped)**
Note	**2015 ESA passed but never funded**
Plus	**Public charters & open enrollment**
Confirm with	**A scholarship organization**

OVERVIEW

Nevada has the Opportunity Scholarship, a tax-credit scholarship program (with a funding cap) that helps income-eligible students attend private schools. (A 2015 universal ESA law passed but was never funded and is effectively inactive.) Nevada also has public charters and open enrollment.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 29 OF 51

New Hampshire

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Education Freedom Accounts (ESA)**
Direction	**Expanding toward universal (2026)**
Also	**Town tuitioning & tax-credit...**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

New Hampshire has Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) — an ESA program — along with a long tradition of town tuitioning (some towns without their own schools pay tuition elsewhere) and a tax-credit scholarship. The EFA program has been expanding toward universal eligibility.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 30 OF 51

New Jersey

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Interdistrict School Choice +...**
Interdistrict	**Attend a participating...**
Homeschool	**Legal**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

New Jersey does not have a statewide private-school-choice program. It does offer public choice, notably the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program (attend a participating public school in another district, tuition-free) and charter schools.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 31 OF 51

New Mexico

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Open enrollment & charters**
Charters	**A well-established charter sector**
Homeschool	**Legal (registered with the state)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

New Mexico does not have a private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). It offers public choice through statewide open enrollment and a well-established charter-school sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 32 OF 51

New York

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Charters, magnets, some open…**
Charters	**Notable in NYC & other cities**
Homeschool	**Legal (with state rules)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

New York does not have a statewide private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). It does offer public choice — notably charter schools (especially in New York City) and some magnet and open-enrollment options.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 33 OF 51

North Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Flagship	**Opportunity Scholarship (voucher)**
Eligibility	**Expanded to broadly universal**
Also	**ESA+ (students with disabilities)**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

North Carolina has a voucher-based choice system — the Opportunity Scholarship, which was expanded to broad (near-universal) eligibility in 2024 — plus the ESA+ account for students with disabilities and a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 34 OF 51

North Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No active statewide program**
Note	**ESA proposals debated, not enacted**
Public choice	**Open enrollment**
Homeschool	**Legal (with requirements)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

North Dakota does not currently have an active statewide private-school-choice program. Education-savings-account proposals have been debated in the legislature but not enacted into a broad program. North Dakota offers public choice through open enrollment.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 35 OF 51

Ohio

AT A GLANCE

Flagship	**EdChoice Scholarship (voucher)**
Eligibility	**Expanded to broadly universal**
Also	**Cleveland, autism & special-needs…**
Note	**Under legal challenge**
Plus	**Public charters (community…**
Confirm with	**The scholarship program**

OVERVIEW

Ohio has a large voucher-based school-choice system — the EdChoice Scholarship, which was expanded to broad (near-universal) eligibility — plus targeted scholarships and a big public charter ("community school") sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 36 OF 51

Oklahoma

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Parental Choice Tax Credit**
Type	**Refundable tax credit**
Amount	**$5,000–$7,500 per student**
Cap	**Annual funding cap ($250M)**
Confirm with	**OK Tax Commission**

OVERVIEW

Oklahoma has the Parental Choice Tax Credit — a refundable tax credit (roughly $5,000–$7,500 per student, more for lower-income families) that helps pay private-school tuition. Oklahoma also has a public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 37 OF 51

Oregon

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Open enrollment & charters**
Homeschool	**Legal (with notice & testing)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Oregon does not have a private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). It offers public choice through open enrollment (where districts participate) and charter schools.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 38 OF 51

Pennsylvania

AT A GLANCE

Programs	**EITC & OSTC (tax-credit...**
Type	**Tax-credit scholarships...**
No	**Statewide ESA or voucher**
Plus	**Public charters & cyber charters**
Confirm with	**A scholarship organization**

OVERVIEW

Pennsylvania has two well-known tax-credit scholarship programs — the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) — plus a large public charter and cyber-charter sector. It does not currently have a statewide ESA or voucher.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 39 OF 51

Rhode Island

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Tax-credit scholarship (corporate)**
Type	**Tax-credit scholarship…**
No	**ESA or voucher**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**A scholarship organization**

OVERVIEW

Rhode Island has a small corporate tax-credit scholarship program that funds private-school scholarships for income-eligible students, plus a public charter sector. It does not currently have an ESA or voucher.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 40 OF 51

South Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Education Scholarship Trust Fund…**
History	**Struck down 2024; revised 2025**
Note	**Confirm current status closely**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

South Carolina created the Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF), an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. The state's highest court struck down part of the original program in 2024, and lawmakers revised and re-enacted it in 2025. Because of that history, confirm the current status carefully. South Carolina also has a…

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 41 OF 51

South Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Partners in Education (tax-credit)**
Type	**Tax-credit scholarship…**
Funded by	**Insurance-company tax credits**
Plus	**Public open enrollment**
Confirm with	**A scholarship organization**

OVERVIEW

South Dakota has the Partners in Education Tax Credit program — a tax-credit scholarship (funded by insurance-company donations) that helps income-eligible students attend participating private schools — plus public open enrollment. It does not have an ESA or voucher.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 42 OF 51

Tennessee

AT A GLANCE

New program	**Universal ESA (Education Freedom...**
Amount	**$7,000 per student**
Cap	**Started at 20,000 (rising)**
Also	**IEA (students with disabilities)**
Note	**Under legal challenge**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Tennessee enacted a universal Education Savings Account (ESA) program in 2025 (the Education Freedom Act), providing eligible students about $7,000 to spend on approved education expenses. Tennessee also has the Individualized Education Account (IEA) for students with disabilities.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 43 OF 51

Texas

AT A GLANCE

New program	**Universal ESA (SB 2)**
Launches	**2026–27 school year**
Amount	**~$10,000 per student**
Type	**Education Savings Account**
Plus	**Public charters & open enrollment**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Texas enacted a universal Education Savings Account (ESA) program in 2025 (Senate Bill 2) — one of the largest single school-choice expansions in the country — scheduled to launch in the 2026–27 school year. Texas also has a large public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 44 OF 51

Utah

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Utah Fits All Scholarship (ESA)**
Type	**Universal-eligible ESA**
Note	**Under legal challenge**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Utah created the Utah Fits All Scholarship, a universal-eligible Education Savings Account (ESA) that gives eligible families funds for private-school and approved education expenses. The program is currently the subject of ongoing litigation. Utah also has a large public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 45 OF 51

Vermont

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Town tuitioning**
How	**Towns without schools pay tuition…**
Since Carson v. Makin	**Can include religious schools**
No	**Statewide ESA or voucher**
Confirm with	**Your school district / SU**

OVERVIEW

Vermont has one of the oldest town tuitioning systems in the country: towns that do not operate their own public school at certain grade levels pay tuition for their students to attend another public school or an approved independent school. Since Carson v. Makin (2022), eligible independent schools can include religious…

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 46 OF 51

Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Education Improvement...**
Type	**Tax-credit scholarship...**
For	**Lower-income students**
Plus	**Public charters & open enrollment**
Confirm with	**A scholarship foundation**

OVERVIEW

Virginia has a tax-credit scholarship program — the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program — which helps lower-income students attend private schools, funded by donations for which donors receive tax credits. Virginia also offers public choice.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 47 OF 51

Washington

AT A GLANCE

Private choice?	**No statewide program**
Public choice	**Open enrollment + limited charters**
Charters	**A small, legally contested sector**
Homeschool	**Legal (with state rules)**
Confirm with	**Your district**

OVERVIEW

Washington does not have a private-school-choice program (no ESA, voucher, or tax-credit scholarship). It offers public choice through open enrollment and a small (and legally contested) charter-school sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 48 OF 51

Washington, D.C.

AT A GLANCE

Program	**DC Opportunity Scholarship...**
Distinctive	**Federally funded (unique)**
For	**Lower-income D.C. students**
Plus	**Very large public charter sector**
Confirm with	**The program administrator**

OVERVIEW

Washington, D.C. has the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program — a voucher for lower-income students that is federally funded (the only such program in the country). D.C. also has one of the largest public charter sectors anywhere — a big share of D.C. students attend charters.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 49 OF 51

West Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Hope Scholarship (ESA)**
Milestone	**First universal ESA (2021)**
Type	**Universal ESA (~$5,000)**
Plus	**Public charters (newer sector)**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

West Virginia launched the Hope Scholarship in 2021 — the nation's first universal Education Savings Account (ESA). It gives eligible families a state-funded account for private-school and approved education expenses, and is now fully universal. West Virginia also has a newer public charter sector.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 50 OF 51

Wisconsin

AT A GLANCE

Programs	**Milwaukee, Racine & statewide…**
Type	**Vouchers (income-limited)**
Oldest	**Milwaukee Parental Choice (1990)**
Also	**Special Needs Scholarship**
Plus	**Public charters**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin is the birthplace of the modern school voucher — the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (1990) was the first in the nation. Wisconsin now runs several income-limited voucher programs, plus a Special Needs Scholarship and public charters.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

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SCHOOL CHOICE — 51 OF 51

Wyoming

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Steamboat Legacy Scholarship (ESA)**
Type	**Universal ESA (new, 2025)**
Amount	**~$7,000 per student**
Note	**Confirm funding/status**
Confirm with	**The state program**

OVERVIEW

Wyoming enacted a universal Education Savings Account (ESA) — the Steamboat Legacy Scholarship — in 2025, providing eligible families about $7,000 for private-school and approved education expenses. As a new program, confirm its current funding and status.

KEY POINTS

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

READ WYOMING'S FULL GUIDE
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SECTION 04 OF 05

Teacher Certification

A full page for each of the 50 states and D.C. — the facts, the summary, and what makes each state distinct.





TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 01 OF 51

Alabama

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Alabama State Dept. of Education**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Performance	**edTPA**
Certificate	**Class B — then Class A (advanced)**

OVERVIEW

Alabama certifies teachers through the Alabama State Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a teaching performance assessment), and earn a Class B certificate (advancing to Class A with a master's).

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your teaching field
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment completed during your program (confirm current status)
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements are generally met through your program — confirm current requirements

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 02 OF 51

Alaska

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Alaska Dept. of Education & Early...
Content	Praxis Subject Assessments
Also	Alaska studies & multicultural...
Certificate	Initial — then Professional

OVERVIEW

Alaska certifies teachers through the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, complete Alaska-specific coursework, and earn an Initial Certificate, later a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Alaska studies & multicultural education** — Required coursework specific to Alaska (a distinctive state requirement)
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 03 OF 51

Arizona

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Arizona Department of Education**
Subject & pro knowledge	**NES / AEPA**
Also	**U.S. & Arizona Constitution...**
Certificate	**Standard Professional**

OVERVIEW

Arizona certifies teachers through the Arizona Department of Education. You complete an approved program (or an alternative pathway), pass the required exams, and earn a Standard Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **NES/AEPA subject test(s)** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Professional knowledge** — A pedagogy exam (where required for your area)
- **Constitution requirement** — Arizona requires coursework or an exam on the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions
- **Note** — Requirements vary by certificate — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 04 OF 51

Arkansas

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Arkansas Dept. of Education (DESE)**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
Reading	**Foundations of Reading**
License	**Initial — then Standard**

OVERVIEW

Arkansas licenses teachers through the Arkansas Department of Education (DESE). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a reading test), and earn an Initial License, later a Standard License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your license area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary and some other candidates — reflecting the science of reading
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements may be met via Praxis Core or qualifying scores — confirm current...

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 05 OF 51

California

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Commission on Teacher...
Basic skills	CBEST (with alternatives)
Subject matter	CSET (or approved coursework)
Reading	Literacy performance assessment
Performance	CalTPA

OVERVIEW

California teaching credentials are issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). You earn a preliminary credential first, then clear it to a professional (clear) credential. California is known for having several assessments — though it has been modernizing them, adding alternatives to some tests.

KEY POINTS

- **CBEST** — Basic skills — though California now allows alternatives (like qualifying coursework or other...
- **CSET** — Subject-matter competence — or you can satisfy it through an approved subject-matter program
- **Reading instruction** — A literacy performance assessment (which has replaced the former RICA) for multiple-subject...
- **CalTPA** — A teaching performance assessment completed during your program

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 06 OF 51

Colorado

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Colorado Department of Education**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
License	**Initial — then Professional**
Note	**No separate basic-skills test...**

OVERVIEW

Colorado licenses teachers through the Colorado Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis content exam(s), and earn an Initial License, later a Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area — the primary testing requirement
- **Elementary** — Includes a reading/literacy component reflecting Colorado's READ Act emphasis
- **Note** — Colorado generally does not require a separate stand-alone basic-skills test — confirm current...

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Connecticut

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Connecticut State Dept. of...
Content	Praxis Subject Assessments
Reading	Foundations of Reading
Certificate	Initial — then...

OVERVIEW

Connecticut certifies teachers through the Connecticut State Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required tests, and earn an Initial Educator Certificate, advancing to Provisional and Professional. Connecticut uses Praxis plus a reading test.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary, reading, and special-education candidates
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements may be met via qualifying scores/coursework — confirm current options

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Delaware

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Delaware Department of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Performance	**edTPA (confirm current status)**

OVERVIEW

Delaware licenses teachers through the Delaware Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a teaching performance assessment), and earn an Initial License, later a Continuing License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying SAT/ACT/GRE scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment (confirm current status)
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 09 OF 51

Florida

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Florida Department of Education**
Basic skills	**FTCE General Knowledge**
Pedagogy	**FTCE Professional Education**
Subject	**FTCE Subject Area Exam(s)**

OVERVIEW

Florida educator certification is handled by the Florida Department of Education. You earn a Temporary Certificate (which lets you begin teaching) and then a Professional Certificate after meeting all requirements, including the FTCE exams.

KEY POINTS

- **General Knowledge Test (GK)** — Basic skills in reading, writing, and math
- **Professional Education Test (PEd)** — Pedagogy and professional knowledge
- **Subject Area Examination (SAE)** — The content test for your certification subject
- **FELE** — For those seeking educational-leadership certification

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 10 OF 51

Georgia

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**GA Professional Standards...**
Content	**GACE content assessment(s)**
Ethics	**Georgia Ethics Assessment**
Performance	**edTPA (confirm current status)**

OVERVIEW

Georgia certification is issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC). You complete an approved program, pass the required GACE assessments and the Georgia Ethics assessment, and earn an Induction certificate, later a Professional certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Program Admission Assessment** — Basic skills (often waivable with qualifying SAT/ACT/GRE scores)
- **GACE content assessment(s)** — Content test(s) for your certification field
- **Georgia Ethics Assessment** — Required entry and exit modules on educator ethics
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment (confirm current status)

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Hawaii

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Hawaii Teacher Standards Board...**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
License	**Provisional — then Standard**

OVERVIEW

Hawaii licenses teachers through the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a license (Provisional, advancing to Standard/Advanced).

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your license field
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by field — confirm your specific tests

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Idaho

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Idaho State Dept. of Education**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Performance	**edTPA (confirm current status)**
Certificate	**Initial — then renewable**

OVERVIEW

Idaho certifies teachers through the Idaho State Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a teaching performance assessment), and earn a certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment (confirm current status)
- **Reading** — A reading/literacy requirement applies for elementary candidates
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 13 OF 51

Illinois

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Illinois State Board of Education...**
Basic skills	**TAP or ACT/SAT (often waivable)**
Content	**ILTS content-area test**
Performance	**edTPA (confirm current status)**

OVERVIEW

Illinois issues the Professional Educator License (PEL) through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). You complete an approved program, pass the required ILTS content test and a teaching performance assessment, and apply for licensure.

KEY POINTS

- **Basic skills** — The Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) — though Illinois often lets qualifying ACT/SAT scores...
- **Content-area test** — An ILTS content test for your endorsement area
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment during student teaching (confirm current status, as Illinois...

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 14 OF 51

Indiana

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Indiana Department of Education**
Basic skills	**CASA (often waivable)**
Content & pedagogy	**Indiana CORE assessments**
License	**Initial Practitioner — then…**

OVERVIEW

Indiana licenses teachers through the Indiana Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Indiana CORE assessments, and earn an Initial Practitioner License, later a Proficient Practitioner License.

KEY POINTS

- **CASA** — Core Academic Skills Assessment (basic skills) — often waivable with qualifying SAT/ACT/GRE…
- **Indiana CORE content assessment(s)** — Content test(s) for your license area
- **Indiana CORE pedagogy** — A developmental/pedagogy assessment where required
- **Note** — Requirements vary by license — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 15 OF 51

Iowa

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Iowa Board of Educational...**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Performance	**edTPA (confirm current status)**
License	**Initial — then Standard**

OVERVIEW

Iowa licenses teachers through the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a teaching performance assessment), and earn an Initial License, later a Standard License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment (confirm current status)
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements are generally met through your program — confirm current requirements

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Kansas

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Kansas State Dept. of Education**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Pedagogy	**Praxis PLT**
License	**Initial — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

Kansas licenses teachers through the Kansas State Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn an Initial License, later a Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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Kentucky

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Kentucky EPSB**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Pedagogy	**Praxis PLT**
Certificate	**Provisional — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

Kentucky certifies teachers through the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a Provisional Certificate, later a Professional Certificate (after the Kentucky Teacher Internship, where applicable).

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests and scores

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 18 OF 51

Louisiana

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Louisiana Department of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
Certificate	**Level 1 — then Level 2/3**

OVERVIEW

Louisiana certifies teachers through the Louisiana Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a Level 1 Professional Certificate, advancing to Level 2/3 with experience and (for higher levels) a master's.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying SAT/ACT scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Reading** — A reading-instruction requirement applies for elementary candidates

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 19 OF 51

Maine

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Maine Department of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Certificate	**Conditional/Provisional — then...**

OVERVIEW

Maine certifies teachers through the Maine Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a Provisional Certificate, later a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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Maryland

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Maryland State Dept. of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Certificate	**Standard Professional**

OVERVIEW

Maryland certifies teachers through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a Standard Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying SAT/ACT/GRE scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Reading** — Reading-instruction requirements apply for elementary/reading/special-education candidates
- **Note** — A teaching performance component may apply through your program — confirm current requirements

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Massachusetts

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Massachusetts DESE**
Communication/literacy	**MTEL Communication & Literacy...**
Subject	**MTEL subject test(s)**
License	**Initial — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

Massachusetts licenses teachers through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). You complete an approved program, pass the required MTEL exams, and earn an Initial License, later a Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **Communication & Literacy Skills** — Reading and writing — required of essentially all candidates
- **MTEL subject test(s)** — Content test(s) for your license field (elementary candidates take the Foundations of Reading...
- **Note** — Requirements vary by field — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 22 OF 51

Michigan

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Michigan Department of Education**
Basic skills	**Professional Readiness Exam...**
Subject	**MTTC subject test(s)**
Certificate	**Standard — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

Michigan certifies teachers through the Michigan Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required MTTC exams, and earn a Standard Certificate, later a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Professional Readiness Examination (PRE)** — Basic skills — often waivable with qualifying SAT/ACT or other scores
- **MTTC subject test(s)** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 23 OF 51

Minnesota

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Minnesota PELSB**
Basic skills	**MTLE Basic Skills (often waivable)**
Pedagogy	**MTLE Pedagogy**
Content	**MTLE Subject test(s)**

OVERVIEW

Minnesota licenses teachers through the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB). You complete an approved program, pass the required MTLE exams, and earn a tiered license (Minnesota uses a Tier 1–4 system).

KEY POINTS

- **MTLE Basic Skills** — Reading, writing, and math — often waivable with qualifying ACT/SAT/other scores
- **MTLE Pedagogy** — A pedagogy exam for your grade band
- **MTLE Subject test(s)** — Content test(s) for your license field
- **Note** — Requirements vary by tier and field — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 24 OF 51

Mississippi

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Mississippi Department of...
Content	Praxis Subject Assessments
Reading	Foundations of Reading
Basic skills	Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)

OVERVIEW

Mississippi licenses teachers through the Mississippi Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a reading test), and earn a Standard License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying ACT/SAT scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your license area
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary candidates
- **Note** — Requirements vary by license — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 25 OF 51

Missouri

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Missouri DESE**
General education	**MoGEA**
Content	**Missouri Content Assessment**
Performance	**MoPTA**

OVERVIEW

Missouri certifies teachers through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). You complete an approved program, pass the required MEGA assessments, and earn an Initial Professional Certificate, later a Career Continuous Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **MoGEA** — Missouri General Education Assessment — often taken for program entry
- **Missouri Content Assessment** — The content test for your certification area
- **MoPTA** — Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment — a teaching performance assessment (confirm current...
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 26 OF 51

Montana

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Montana Office of Public...
Content	Praxis Subject Assessments
License	Class 2 Standard (Initial)
Note	No separate basic-skills test...

OVERVIEW

Montana licenses teachers through the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis content exam(s), and earn a Class 2 Standard License (advancing to Class 1 with a master's).

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area — the primary testing requirement
- **Note** — Montana generally does not require a separate stand-alone basic-skills test — confirm current...

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Nebraska

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Nebraska Department of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Certificate	**Initial — then Standard**

OVERVIEW

Nebraska certifies teachers through the Nebraska Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn an Initial Certificate, later a Standard Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 28 OF 51

Nevada

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Nevada Department of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
License	**Standard**

OVERVIEW

Nevada licenses teachers through the Nevada Department of Education (Office of Educator Licensure). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a license.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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New Hampshire

AT A GLANCE

Agency	New Hampshire Department of...
Content	Praxis Subject Assessments
Reading	Foundations of Reading...
Credential	Beginning Educator — then...

OVERVIEW

New Hampshire certifies teachers through the New Hampshire Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a reading test where applicable), and earn a Beginning Educator credential, later an Experienced Educator credential.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary candidates
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements may be met via qualifying scores/coursework — confirm current options

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 30 OF 51

New Jersey

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**New Jersey Department of Education**
Subject	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core or qualifying...**
Certificate	**CE / CEAS — then Standard**

OVERVIEW

New Jersey issues certificates through the New Jersey Department of Education. You typically earn a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) or a Certificate of Eligibility (CE), teach under provisional status, and then receive a Standard Certificate. New Jersey uses the Praxis.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — The content test(s) for your certification area
- **Basic skills** — Praxis Core (or satisfied via GPA / qualifying SAT/ACT/GRE) — confirm current options
- **Note** — New Jersey has revised some requirements (including performance assessments) — verify the...

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 31 OF 51

New Mexico

AT A GLANCE

Agency	New Mexico Public Education Dept.
Basic skills	NMTA Basic Skills
Content	NMTA Content Knowledge
Pedagogy	NMTA Assessment of Professional...

OVERVIEW

New Mexico licenses teachers through the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED). You complete an approved program, pass the required NMTA exams, and earn a Level 1 license, advancing to Level 2/3 with experience.

KEY POINTS

- **NMTA Basic Skills** — Reading, writing, and math
- **NMTA Content Knowledge** — Content test(s) for your licensure area
- **NMTA Assessment of Professional Knowledge** — A pedagogy exam for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by license — confirm your specific tests

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New York

AT A GLANCE

Agency	NY State Education Department...
Pedagogy	NYSTCE EAS
Content	NYSTCE CST
Performance	edTPA (teacher performance)

OVERVIEW

New York teaching certificates are issued by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). You complete an approved program, pass the NYSTCE exams and a teaching performance assessment, and earn an Initial Certificate, later advancing to a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **EAS** — Educating All Students — the pedagogy/professional exam
- **CST** — Content Specialty Test(s) — for your certification area
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment completed during student teaching (confirm current status)
- **Note** — New York periodically revises its required exams — verify the current set

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North Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Agency	NC Dept. of Public Instruction
Most areas	Praxis Subject Assessments
Elementary	Pearson: Foundations of Reading +...
License	Initial Professional — then...

OVERVIEW

North Carolina issues teaching licenses through the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI). You complete an approved program, pass the required exams, and earn an Initial Professional License, later a Continuing Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — For most secondary and many other areas
- **Pearson Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary (and some other) candidates — reflecting the science of reading
- **Pearson General Curriculum** — Required for elementary candidates (multi-subject)
- **Note** — A teaching performance component may apply through your program — confirm current requirements

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North Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**North Dakota ESPB**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
License	**Initial — then renewable**

OVERVIEW

North Dakota licenses teachers through the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a license.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 35 OF 51

Ohio

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Ohio Dept. of Education &...
Pedagogy	OAE APK
Content	OAE subject test(s)
Reading	Foundations of Reading...

OVERVIEW

Ohio issues teaching licenses through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. You complete an approved program, pass the required OAE exams, and earn a Resident Educator License, later advancing to a Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **Assessment of Professional Knowledge (APK)** — The pedagogy/professional exam
- **OAE subject assessment(s)** — Content test(s) for your licensure area
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for early-childhood/primary and some other candidates
- **Note** — Requirements vary by license area — confirm your specific tests

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Oklahoma

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Oklahoma State Dept. of Education**
General education	**OGET**
Subject	**OSAT**
Professional teaching	**OPTE**

OVERVIEW

Oklahoma certifies teachers through the Oklahoma State Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required CEOE exams, and earn a Standard Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **OGET** — Oklahoma General Education Test (basic skills)
- **OSAT** — Oklahoma Subject Area Test(s) for your certification area
- **OPTE** — Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination (pedagogy)
- **Note** — Requirements vary by certificate — confirm your specific tests

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL GUIDE
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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 37 OF 51

Oregon

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Oregon TSPC**
Subject	**NES (National Evaluation Series)**
Performance	**edTPA**
License	**Preliminary — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

Oregon licenses teachers through the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC). You complete an approved program, pass the required exams, and earn a Preliminary License, later a Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **NES (National Evaluation Series)** — Subject-area test(s) for your endorsement (some areas may use other approved tests)
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment completed during student teaching (confirm current status)
- **Civil rights / protecting students** — Oregon requires a Protecting Student and Civil Rights module
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

READ OREGON'S FULL GUIDE
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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 38 OF 51

Pennsylvania

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Pennsylvania Department of...**
Most areas	**Praxis subject & core tests**
PreK-4 & special ed	**PECT modules**
Certificate	**Instructional I — then II**

OVERVIEW

Pennsylvania issues the Instructional I certificate (advancing to Instructional II) through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. You complete an approved program and pass the required tests — Pennsylvania uses a mix of Praxis and its own PECT exams depending on your area.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis** — Subject Assessments (and, where required, core/basic-skills tests) for most secondary and many...
- **PECT (Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests)** — Used for PreK-4, PreK-4 & special education, and some other specific certificates
- **Basic skills** — Often satisfied via Praxis Core or qualifying SAT/ACT scores — confirm current options

READ PENNSYLVANIA'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 39 OF 51

Rhode Island

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Rhode Island Department of...**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Reading	**Foundations of Reading**
Certificate	**Initial — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

Rhode Island certifies teachers through the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a reading test where applicable), and earn an Initial Certificate, later a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary, reading, and special-education candidates
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements may be met via qualifying scores/coursework — confirm current options

READ RHODE ISLAND'S FULL GUIDE
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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 40 OF 51

South Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**South Carolina Department of...**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Certificate	**Initial — then Professional**

OVERVIEW

South Carolina certifies teachers through the South Carolina Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn an Initial Certificate, later a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying SAT/ACT/GRE scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Reading** — A reading-instruction requirement applies for elementary/early-childhood candidates

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 41 OF 51

South Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Agency	South Dakota Department of...
Content & pedagogy	Praxis Subject + PLT
Also	South Dakota Indian Studies...
Certificate	Initial — then renewable

OVERVIEW

South Dakota certifies teachers through the South Dakota Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, complete the state's Indian Studies requirement, and earn a certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **South Dakota Indian Studies** — A required course specific to South Dakota (a distinctive state requirement)
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests

READ SOUTH DAKOTA'S FULL GUIDE
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Tennessee

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Tennessee Department of Education**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
License	**Practitioner — then Professional**
Also	**edTPA (confirm current status)**

OVERVIEW

Tennessee licenses teachers through the Tennessee Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn a Practitioner License, later a Professional License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for the appropriate grade band
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment (confirm current status)
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements may be met via Praxis Core or qualifying scores — confirm current...

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 43 OF 51

Texas

AT A GLANCE	
Agency	TEA / SBEC
Core exams	TExES (PPR + content)
Reading	Science of Teaching Reading (STR)
Certificate	Standard (after...

OVERVIEW

Texas educator certification is overseen by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). You complete an approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP), pass the required TExES exams, and earn a Standard Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **TExES PPR** — Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities — the core teaching exam
- **TExES content exams** — A subject/grade-level content test for your certification area
- **Science of Teaching Reading (STR)** — Required for early-childhood and elementary candidates
- **Note** — Some candidates may also complete edTPA-style or performance requirements through their...

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 44 OF 51

Utah

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Utah State Board of Education**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
License	**Associate/Professional pathways**
Note	**Multiple licensure routes**

OVERVIEW

Utah licenses teachers through the Utah State Board of Education. You complete an approved program (or an alternative pathway), pass the required Praxis content exam(s), and earn a Professional License. Utah offers several routes, including an Associate license.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your license area — the primary testing requirement
- **Elementary** — Includes a reading component reflecting Utah's literacy emphasis
- **Note** — Utah generally does not require a separate stand-alone basic-skills test — confirm current...

READ UTAH'S FULL GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com

Vermont

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Vermont Agency of Education**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Reading	**Foundations of Reading...**

OVERVIEW

Vermont licenses teachers through the Vermont Agency of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams (and a reading test where applicable), and earn a Level I License, later a Level II License.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **Foundations of Reading** — Required for elementary and some other candidates
- **Note** — Requirements vary by endorsement — confirm your specific tests

READ VERMONT'S FULL GUIDE
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Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Virginia Department of Education**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Communication/literacy	**VCLA**
Reading (elementary/SPED)	**RVE**

OVERVIEW

Virginia issues licenses through the Virginia Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required tests, and earn an Initial (Provisional/Collegiate) license leading to renewable licensure. Virginia uses Praxis plus its own VCLA and RVE.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area
- **VCLA** — Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment — reading and writing skills
- **RVE** — Reading for Virginia Educators — required for elementary, reading, and special-education...
- **Note** — Some requirements can be met via qualifying scores/coursework — confirm current options

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 47 OF 51

Washington

AT A GLANCE

Agency	OSPI / Prof. Educator Standards...
Basic skills	WEST-B (or alternatives)
Subject	WEST-E / NES
Performance	edTPA

OVERVIEW

Washington certifies teachers through the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB). You complete an approved program, pass the required exams, and earn a Residency Certificate, later a Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **WEST-B** — Basic skills — though alternatives (like SAT/ACT) can satisfy it
- **WEST-E / NES** — Subject-knowledge test(s) for your endorsement area
- **edTPA** — A teaching performance assessment completed during student teaching (confirm current status)

READ WASHINGTON'S FULL GUIDE
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Washington, D.C.

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**OSSE (D.C.)**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
License	**Initial — then Standard**

OVERVIEW

Washington, D.C. licenses teachers through the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn an Initial Credential, later a Standard Credential.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests

READ WASHINGTON, D.C.'S FULL GUIDE
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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 49 OF 51

West Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**West Virginia Department of...**
Basic skills	**Praxis Core (or qualifying scores)**
Content & pedagogy	**Praxis Subject + PLT**
Certificate	**Initial Professional**

OVERVIEW

West Virginia certifies teachers through the West Virginia Department of Education. You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis exams, and earn an Initial Professional Certificate.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Core** — Basic skills — or satisfied with qualifying scores
- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your certification area
- **Praxis PLT** — Principles of Learning and Teaching (pedagogy) for your grade band
- **Note** — Requirements vary by area — confirm your specific tests

READ WEST VIRGINIA'S FULL GUIDE
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Wisconsin

AT A GLANCE

Agency	Wisconsin Dept. of Public...
Content	Praxis Subject Assessments
Reading	Foundations of Reading Test (FoRT)
License	Provisional — then...

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin licenses teachers through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). You complete an approved program, pass the required tests, and earn a license (advancing through the state's tiered license structure). Wisconsin uses Praxis plus the Foundations of Reading Test.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your license area
- **Foundations of Reading Test (FoRT)** — Required for elementary, special-education, and reading candidates — reflecting the science of...
- **Note** — Basic-skills requirements may be met via qualifying scores/coursework — confirm current options

READ WISCONSIN'S FULL GUIDE
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TEACHER CERTIFICATION — 51 OF 51

Wyoming

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Wyoming PTSB**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Also	**U.S. & Wyoming Constitution…**
License	**Initial — then renewable**

OVERVIEW

Wyoming licenses teachers through the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB). You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis content exam(s), meet the Constitution requirement, and earn a license.

KEY POINTS

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area — the primary testing requirement
- **U.S. & Wyoming Constitution** — A required course or exam on the U.S. and Wyoming Constitutions
- **Note** — Wyoming generally does not require a separate stand-alone basic-skills test — confirm current…

READ WYOMING'S FULL GUIDE
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SECTION 05 OF 05

State Financial Aid

A full page for each of the 50 states and D.C. — the facts, the summary, and what makes each state distinct.





STATE FINANCIAL AID — 01 OF 51

Alabama

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Alabama Student Assistance Program**
Private colleges	**Alabama Student Grant**
529 plan	**CollegeCounts**
Agency	**ACHE**

OVERVIEW

Alabama's state aid is administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), with a need-based grant and a grant for students at private colleges (funds are limited, so file early).

KEY POINTS

- **Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)** — The state's need-based grant for Alabama residents at eligible in-state colleges — limited...
- **Alabama Student Grant** — Tuition assistance for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit Alabama...
- **Alabama GI Dependent Scholarship** — Tuition benefits for dependents of qualifying disabled or deceased veterans.

READ ALABAMA'S FULL GUIDE
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Alaska

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**Alaska Performance Scholarship**
Need-based	**Alaska Education Grant**
529 plan	**Alaska 529**
Agency	**ACPE**

OVERVIEW

Alaska's state aid is administered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), combining a tiered merit scholarship and a need-based grant.

KEY POINTS

- **Alaska Education Grant (AEG)** — Alaska's need-based grant for residents at eligible in-state colleges — file the FAFSA early,...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 03 OF 51

Arizona

AT A GLANCE

Free university tuition	**Arizona Promise Program**
Future teachers	**Arizona Teachers Academy**
Need-based	**AzLEAP**
529 plan	**AZ529**
Agency	**ACPE**
Apply by	**FAFSA**

OVERVIEW

Arizona's state aid is administered by the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE), and its public universities run a Promise program that can make tuition free for Pell-eligible Arizona residents.

KEY POINTS

- **Arizona Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (AzLEAP)** — A need-based grant for Arizona residents at eligible in-state colleges (limited funds).
- **Arizona Teachers Academy** — Covers tuition for students committing to teach in Arizona.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 04 OF 51

Arkansas

AT A GLANCE

Merit (lottery)	Academic Challenge Scholarship
Free CC (high-demand)	ArFuture Grant
Top merit	Governor's Distinguished...
529 plan	Brighter Future (GIFT)
Agency	Arkansas DHE

OVERVIEW

Arkansas funds state aid largely from the state lottery, administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE), with a broad merit scholarship and a workforce-focused grant.

KEY POINTS

- **File the FAFSA early** — It's the trigger for state grants and many scholarships
- **Register with Arkansas Division of Higher Education** — Create the state agency's student account to track and claim awards
- **Confirm your details** — Verify residency, GPA, and enrollment as required
- **Meet any extra requirements** — Some programs need a separate form, GPA, or service commitment

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 05 OF 51

California

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Cal Grant A, B & C**
Middle-income	**Middle Class Scholarship**
Community college	**California College Promise**
Foster youth	**Chafee Grant**
529 plan	**ScholarShare 529**
Agency	**CSAC**

OVERVIEW

California offers some of the nation's most generous state financial aid, administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). It ranges from need-based Cal Grants to the Middle Class Scholarship and free community college through the California College Promise. Undocumented students apply via the California Dream Act...

KEY POINTS

- **Cal Grant A, B & C** — The main need-based awards — you don't pick a type; CSAC assigns one based on your...
- **Chafee Grant** — For current and former foster youth pursuing college or career training.
- **Student Success Completion Grant** — Additional aid for community-college students carrying more units

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 06 OF 51

Colorado

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Colorado Student Grant**
Scholarship + support	**COSI**
529 plan	**CollegeInvest**
Agency	**CDHE**
Apply by	**FAFSA or CASFA**

OVERVIEW

Colorado's state aid is coordinated by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), which distributes need-based grant funds to public colleges. Students not eligible for federal aid apply via the Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA).

KEY POINTS

- **Colorado Student Grant** — Need-based aid distributed by the state to eligible in-state public colleges, which award it...
- **Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)** — Provides scholarships plus student-support services (advising, wraparound help) to boost...

READ COLORADO'S FULL GUIDE
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Connecticut

AT A GLANCE

Need + merit	**Roberta B. Willis Scholarship**
Free community college	**PACT**
529 plan	**CHET**
Agency	**CT Office of Higher Ed**

OVERVIEW

Connecticut's state aid is administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE), with a combined need-and-merit scholarship and a free-community-college program.

KEY POINTS

- **Roberta B. Willis Scholarship** — Connecticut's main state scholarship, with both need-based and need-merit components for...

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Delaware

AT A GLANCE

Free associate degree	**SEED Scholarship**
Delaware State Univ.	**INSPIRE Scholarship**
Need-based	**Scholarship Incentive Program**
529 plan	**DE529**
Agency	**DE Higher Education Office**

OVERVIEW

Delaware's state aid is administered by the Delaware Higher Education Office, and its signature programs make an associate degree tuition-free for eligible residents.

KEY POINTS

- **Scholarship Incentive Program (ScIP)** — Delaware's need- and merit-based grant for residents at eligible in-state (and some regional)...

READ DELAWARE'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 09 OF 51

Florida

AT A GLANCE

Merit	Bright Futures (Academic &...
Need-based	Florida Student Assistance Grant
Private colleges	EASE Grant
Prepaid/529	Florida Prepaid & 529 Savings
Agency	OSFA (Florida DOE)
Funded by	State lottery (Bright Futures)

OVERVIEW

Florida's best-known state aid is the lottery-funded Bright Futures merit scholarship, alongside need-based grants — all administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) within the Florida Department of Education. Florida also accepts AICE, IB, and AP results toward Bright Futures eligibility.

KEY POINTS

- **Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)** — Need-based aid for Florida residents at eligible in-state colleges.
- **Effective Access to Student Education (EASE)** — Tuition assistance for Florida residents attending eligible private, nonprofit Florida...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 10 OF 51

Georgia

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships**
Technical/certificate	**HOPE & Zell Miller Grants**
High-demand fields	**HOPE Career Grant**
529 plan	**Path2College 529**
Agency	**GSFC / GAfutures**
Funded by	**State lottery**

OVERVIEW

Georgia's famous lottery-funded HOPE and Zell Miller programs reward academic achievement, administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) through GAfutures.org. They're primarily merit-based, with awards for both degree and technical/certificate students.

KEY POINTS

- **HOPE Grant & Zell Miller Grant** — For students in technical certificate/diploma programs (not tied to a degree GPA).
- **HOPE Career Grant** — Additional aid for students in designated high-demand career fields.

READ GEORGIA'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 11 OF 51

Hawaii

AT A GLANCE

Free community college	**Hawai'i Promise**
Merit	**B Plus Scholarship**
529 plan	**HI529**
Agency	**University of Hawai'i system**

OVERVIEW

Hawai'i's primary state aid flows through the University of Hawai'i (UH) system, including a promise program that makes community college affordable for residents with need.

KEY POINTS

- **File the FAFSA early** — It's the trigger for state grants and many scholarships
- **Register with University of Hawai'i System Financial Aid** — Create the state agency's student account to track and claim awards
- **Confirm your details** — Verify residency, GPA, and enrollment as required
- **Meet any extra requirements** — Some programs need a separate form, GPA, or service commitment

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 12 OF 51

Idaho

AT A GLANCE

In-demand degrees	**Idaho LAUNCH ($8,000)**
Need + merit	**Idaho Opportunity Scholarship**
529 plan	**IDeal**
Agency	**Idaho State Board of Ed**

OVERVIEW

Idaho's state aid is administered by the Idaho State Board of Education, with a large workforce grant and a renewable opportunity scholarship.

KEY POINTS

- **Idaho LAUNCH Grant** — Up to $8,000 ($4,000 the first year) covering up to 80% of tuition/costs for Idaho high-school...
- **Idaho Opportunity Scholarship** — A need- and merit-based scholarship of up to $3,500/year (up to $14,000 over four years) for...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 13 OF 51

Illinois

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Monetary Award Program (MAP)**
Merit	**AIM HIGH**
529 plan	**Bright Start / Bright Directions**
Agency	**ISAC**
Apply by	**FAFSA or Alternative App**
Note	**MAP funds are limited — file early**

OVERVIEW

Illinois administers state financial aid through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). Its cornerstone is the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant, whose funds are limited — so filing the FAFSA early is essential.

KEY POINTS

- **Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant** — Illinois's main need-based grant for residents at approved in-state colleges — first-come...
- **Illinois National Guard Grant** — Tuition assistance for eligible Guard members.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 14 OF 51

Indiana

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Frank O'Bannon Grant**
Income-based (pledge)	**21st Century Scholars**
Workforce	**Workforce Ready Grant**
529 plan	**Indiana529**
Agency	**Indiana CHE**
Apply by	**FAFSA**

OVERVIEW

Indiana administers state aid through the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Its standout program is 21st Century Scholars, which — for students who enroll and fulfill a pledge in middle school — can cover up to full tuition at an eligible Indiana college.

KEY POINTS

- **Frank O'Bannon Grant** — Indiana's main need-based grant for residents at eligible in-state colleges.
- **21st Century Scholars** — Income-eligible students who enroll in 7th/8th grade and complete the Scholar Success Program...
- **Adult Student Grant** — Need-based aid for returning adult students.

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Iowa

AT A GLANCE

High-demand fields	**Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar**
Private colleges	**Iowa Tuition Grant**
529 plan	**College Savings Iowa**
Agency	**Iowa College Aid**

OVERVIEW

Iowa's state aid is administered through Iowa College Aid (within the Iowa Department of Education), and emphasizes workforce-aligned, tuition-free pathways in high-demand fields.

KEY POINTS

- **Iowa Tuition Grant** — Need-based aid for Iowa residents at eligible private, nonprofit Iowa colleges.
- **Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant** — For students in career and technical programs at community colleges.

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Kansas

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Kansas Comprehensive Grant**
High-demand fields	**Kansas Promise Scholarship**
Merit	**Kansas State Scholarship**
529 plan	**Learning Quest**
Agency	**Kansas Board of Regents**

OVERVIEW

Kansas administers state aid through the Kansas Board of Regents, with a need-based grant and a promise scholarship for high-demand fields.

KEY POINTS

- **Kansas Comprehensive Grant** — Need-based aid for Kansas residents at eligible public and private in-state colleges — file...
- **Career Technical Workforce Grant** — For students in eligible technical programs.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 17 OF 51

Kentucky

AT A GLANCE	
Merit	**KEES (from HS GPA + ACT)**
Need-based	**CAP Grant**
Private colleges	**Kentucky Tuition Grant**
Workforce	**Work Ready KY Scholarship**
529 plan	**KY Saves**
Agency	**KHEAA**

OVERVIEW

Kentucky's state aid is administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), funded substantially by the state lottery. Its signature program, KEES, rewards high-school performance year by year.

KEY POINTS

- **College Access Program (CAP) Grant** — Kentucky's main need-based grant — file the FAFSA early, as funds run out.
- **Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG)** — Need-based aid for students at private, nonprofit Kentucky colleges.
- **Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship** — Tuition-free certificates/associate degrees in high-demand fields.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 18 OF 51

Louisiana

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**TOPS (covers tuition)**
Need supplement	**GO Grant**
Adults/high-demand	**M.J. Foster Promise**
529 plan	**START**
Agency	**LOSFA**

OVERVIEW

Louisiana's best-known state aid is TOPS — a merit program that covers tuition at Louisiana public colleges — administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

KEY POINTS

- **GO Grant** — A need-based supplement for Louisiana students with remaining financial need (often stacked...
- **M.J. Foster Promise** — Aid for adults pursuing credentials in high-demand fields.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 19 OF 51

Maine

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Maine State Grant**
Free community college	**Maine Free College Scholarship**
529 plan	**NextGen**
Agency	**FAME**

OVERVIEW

Maine's state aid is administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), with a need-based grant and a free-community-college scholarship for recent graduates.

KEY POINTS

- **Maine State Grant** — Maine's main need-based grant for residents at eligible in-state (and some New England)...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 20 OF 51

Maryland

AT A GLANCE	
Need-based	**Rawlings GA & EA Grants**
Community college	**MD Community College Promise**
Legislative	**Senatorial & Delegate Scholarships**
529 plan	**Maryland 529**
Agency	**MHEC**

OVERVIEW

Maryland administers state aid through the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), including need-based grants, a near-free community-college program, and scholarships awarded through state legislators.

KEY POINTS

- **Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant** — A large need-based grant for the highest-need Maryland students meeting income and GPA...
- **Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance (EA) Grant** — A broader need-based grant for Maryland residents.
- **Senatorial & Delegate Scholarships** — Awarded through Maryland state legislators — apply via your senator/delegate.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 21 OF 51

Massachusetts

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**MASSGrant & MASSGrant Plus**
Merit	**John & Abigail Adams Scholarship**
Free community college	**MassEducate & MassReconnect**
529 plan	**U.Fund**
Agency	**MA OSFA**
Apply by	**FAFSA or MASFA**

OVERVIEW

Massachusetts administers state aid through the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) at the Department of Higher Education, and has recently made community college tuition-free for residents. Undocumented students can apply via the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA).

KEY POINTS

- **MASSGrant & MASSGrant Plus** — Need-based grants for Massachusetts residents — MASSGrant Plus expands aid to cover more of...
- **Cash Grant** — Additional need-based aid at public colleges.

READ MASSACHUSETTS'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 22 OF 51

Michigan

AT A GLANCE

Flagship	**Michigan Achievement Scholarship**
4-year	**Up to $27,500 over 5 years**
Community college	**Tuition-free Guarantee**
Adults 25+	**Michigan Reconnect**
529 plan	**MESP / MET**
Agency	**MI Student Aid (MiLEAP)**

OVERVIEW

Michigan has built a coordinated state aid system around the Michigan Achievement Scholarship — a broad, FAFSA-linked program for recent high-school graduates — administered by MI Student Aid. The only way to find out what you qualify for is to file the FAFSA.

KEY POINTS

- **Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)** — Tuition help for students who had Medicaid coverage, toward a certificate or degree.
- **Michigan Tuition Grant** — Need-based aid for students at private, nonprofit Michigan colleges.
- **Fostering Futures & Children of Veterans** — Targeted aid for foster youth and veterans' families.

READ MICHIGAN'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 23 OF 51

Minnesota

AT A GLANCE

Free tuition	**North Star Promise (AGI < $80k)**
Need-based	**Minnesota State Grant**
529 plan	**MNSAVES**
Agency	**MN Office of Higher Education**
Apply by	**FAFSA or MN Dream Act**

OVERVIEW

Minnesota administers state aid through the Office of Higher Education (OHE), and in 2024 launched the North Star Promise — free college tuition for residents under an income threshold. Undocumented students apply via the Minnesota Dream Act Application.

KEY POINTS

- **Minnesota State Grant** — The state's main need-based grant, using a shared-responsibility model between the student,...
- **Minnesota Indian Scholarship** — Aid for eligible American Indian students.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 24 OF 51

Mississippi

AT A GLANCE

Need (full tuition)	**HELP Grant**
Partial need	**MTAG**
Merit	**Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)**
529 plan	**MACS / MPACT**
Agency	**MS SFA**

OVERVIEW

Mississippi administers state aid through the Office of Student Financial Aid (SFA), with a mix of need-based and merit grants — including a program that can cover full tuition for high-achieving low-income students.

KEY POINTS

- **Higher Education Legislative Plan (HELP) Grant** — Covers full tuition at Mississippi public colleges for eligible low-income, high-achieving...
- **Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)** — Partial aid for residents who don't receive a full Pell Grant.
- **Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance (MRTA)** — For dependents of certain public-safety officers and service members.

READ MISSISSIPPI'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 25 OF 51

Missouri

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Access Missouri Grant**
Merit	**Bright Flight**
Free community college	**A+ Scholarship**
Adults/high-demand	**Fast Track**
529 plan	**MOST**
Agency	**MDHEWD**

OVERVIEW

Missouri administers state aid through the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development (MDHEWD), with a mix of need-based grants, a merit award, and a tuition-free community-college program for graduates of designated high schools.

KEY POINTS

- **Access Missouri Grant** — The state's need-based grant for Missouri residents at eligible in-state colleges.
- **Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship** — For students who work while attending college part-time.

READ MISSOURI'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 26 OF 51

Montana

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**MUS Honor Scholarship**
Need-based	**Montana Higher Education Grant**
529 plan	**Achieve Montana**
Agency	**Montana University System (OCHE)**

OVERVIEW

Montana's state aid is coordinated by the Montana University System (Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education), with a merit scholarship and need-based grants.

KEY POINTS

- **Montana Higher Education Grant (MHEG)** — Need-based aid for Montana residents at eligible in-state colleges — limited funds.
- **Montana Promise** — A last-dollar community-college promise (where offered).

READ MONTANA'S FULL GUIDE
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Nebraska

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Nebraska Opportunity Grant**
High-demand fields	**Nebraska Career Scholarship**
529 plan	**NEST**
Agency	**CCPE**

OVERVIEW

Nebraska's state aid is administered by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE), centered on a need-based grant distributed to colleges.

KEY POINTS

- **Nebraska Opportunity Grant** — Nebraska's main need-based grant, distributed to eligible in-state colleges (public, private,...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 28 OF 51

Nevada

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**Millennium Scholarship**
Need-based	**Silver State Opportunity Grant**
Free community college	**Nevada Promise**
529 plan	**Nevada 529 plans**
Agency	**NSHE / State Treasurer**

OVERVIEW

Nevada's state aid combines a merit scholarship, a need-based grant, and a community-college promise, coordinated by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) and the State Treasurer.

KEY POINTS

- **Silver State Opportunity Grant** — Nevada's need-based grant for students at community and state colleges, using a...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 29 OF 51

New Hampshire

AT A GLANCE

State scholarship	**Governor's Scholarship**
Free tuition (Pell)	**Granite Guarantee (USNH)**
529 plan	**UNIQUE College Investing**
Note	**Limited state grant aid**
Agency	**NH Dept. of Education**

OVERVIEW

New Hampshire historically offers limited state grant aid compared with other states, but it does run a state scholarship and free-tuition guarantees at its public universities. Aid is coordinated through the New Hampshire Department of Education and the university/community-college systems.

KEY POINTS

- **Governor's Scholarship Program** — A state scholarship for New Hampshire high-school graduates with financial need (with...
- **Granite Guarantee** — Free tuition at University System of New Hampshire (USNH) institutions for eligible...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 30 OF 51

New Jersey

AT A GLANCE	
Need-based	**Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)**
Free community college	**Community College Opportunity...**
Free jr/sr year	**Garden State Guarantee**
Top HS students	**NJ STARS**
529 plan	**NJBEST**
Agency	**HESAA**

OVERVIEW

New Jersey offers some of the nation's most generous state aid, administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). Its cornerstone is the need-based Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), complemented by free-community-college and tuition-free upper-year programs. Undocumented students may apply via the NJ Alternative...

KEY POINTS

- **Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)** — New Jersey's flagship need-based grant for full-time residents at eligible in-state colleges.
- **Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)** — Grants and support for students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 31 OF 51

New Mexico

AT A GLANCE

Free tuition	Opportunity Scholarship (no...
Merit	Legislative Lottery Scholarship
Need-based	College Affordability Grant
529 plan	The Education Plan
Agency	NMHED

OVERVIEW

New Mexico offers one of the nation's most inclusive free-tuition programs, administered by the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) — the Opportunity Scholarship covers tuition at all 29 public colleges with no income requirement.

KEY POINTS

- **College Affordability Grant** — Need-based aid for New Mexico residents with financial need not covered by other aid.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 32 OF 51

New York

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**
Free tuition	**Excelsior Scholarship (SUNY/CUNY)**
Merit	**NYS Scholarships (Excellence,...**
529 plan	**NY 529 Direct Plan**
Agency	**HESC**
For	**NY residents at in-state schools**

OVERVIEW

New York's state financial aid is run by the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). Its centerpiece is the need-based Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), plus the Excelsior Scholarship, which can make SUNY/CUNY tuition free for eligible middle-income families.

KEY POINTS

- **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** — New York's main need-based grant for full-time (and some part-time) residents at approved...

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North Carolina

AT A GLANCE

Main program	**Next NC Scholarship**
Community college	**Tuition-free for many**
Private colleges	**NC Need-Based Scholarship**
529 plan	**NC 529**
Agency	**CFNC / NC SEAA**
Apply by	**FAFSA**

OVERVIEW

North Carolina's state financial aid is administered through the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and the State Education Assistance Authority. Its flagship is the Next NC Scholarship, which combines federal and state aid to cover tuition and fees for many students at the state's community colleges and public...

KEY POINTS

- **Next NC Scholarship** — Combines the federal Pell Grant with state aid to cover (or more than cover) tuition and fees...
- **NC Community College Grant** — Need-based aid for students at NC community colleges.
- **NC Need-Based Scholarship** — Need-based aid for students at eligible private, nonprofit NC colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 34 OF 51

North Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**ND Academic & CTE Scholarship**
Need-based	**ND State Grant**
High-demand (matching)	**ND Career Builders**
529 plan	**College SAVE**
Agency	**ND University System / DPI**

OVERVIEW

North Dakota's state aid is administered through the North Dakota University System and the Department of Public Instruction, with merit and need-based programs plus a workforce matching scholarship.

KEY POINTS

- **North Dakota State Grant** — Need-based aid for North Dakota residents at eligible in-state colleges — limited funds, so...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 35 OF 51

Ohio

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Ohio College Opportunity Grant**
STEM merit	**Choose Ohio First**
529 plan	**CollegeAdvantage**
Agency	**ODHE**
Apply by	**FAFSA**

OVERVIEW

Ohio administers state financial aid through the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). Its main need-based program is the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG), complemented by the STEM-focused Choose Ohio First scholarship.

KEY POINTS

- **Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)** — Ohio's main need-based grant for residents at eligible Ohio (and a few adjacent) colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 36 OF 51

Oklahoma

AT A GLANCE

Free tuition (income-based)	**Oklahoma's Promise**
Need-based	**Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant**
529 plan	**Oklahoma 529**
Agency	**OSRHE**
Enroll in	**8th–10th grade for Promise**

OVERVIEW

Oklahoma's standout state aid is Oklahoma's Promise — a program students enroll in during middle/early high school that can cover college tuition — administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE).

KEY POINTS

- **Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG)** — The state's need-based grant for Oklahoma residents at eligible in-state colleges — file...

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL GUIDE
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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 37 OF 51

Oregon

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Oregon Opportunity Grant**
Community college	**Oregon Promise**
Tribal members	**Oregon Tribal Student Grant**
529 plan	**Oregon College Savings Plan**
Agency	**HECC / OSAC**

OVERVIEW

Oregon's state aid is coordinated by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and its Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC), including a need-based grant and a community-college promise program.

KEY POINTS

- **Oregon Opportunity Grant** — Oregon's main need-based grant for residents at eligible in-state colleges — file early, as...
- **Oregon Tribal Student Grant** — Can cover the full cost of attendance for enrolled members of Oregon's federally recognized...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 38 OF 51

Pennsylvania

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**PA State Grant**
Targeted fields	**PA-TIP**
529 plan	**PA 529 (GSP & IP)**
Agency	**PHEAA**
Out-of-state?	**PA State Grant usable at some**
Apply by	**FAFSA + state grant form**

OVERVIEW

Pennsylvania's state financial aid is administered by PHEAA (the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency). Its main program is the need-based PA State Grant, which — unusually — can be used at some approved out-of-state schools.

KEY POINTS

- **PA State Grant** — The main need-based grant for Pennsylvania residents; usable at approved in-state and some...
- **PA Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)** — Aid for students in approved programs in high-priority industries (energy, advanced...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 39 OF 51

Rhode Island

AT A GLANCE

Free community college	**Rhode Island Promise**
Free jr/sr year	**Hope Scholarship (RIC)**
Need-based	**RI State Grant**
529 plan	**CollegeBound Saver**
Agency	**RI OPC**

OVERVIEW

Rhode Island's state aid is coordinated by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC), with a free-community-college program and a newer program covering the junior/senior years at Rhode Island College.

KEY POINTS

- **Rhode Island State Grant** — Need-based aid for Rhode Island residents at eligible in-state (and some regional) colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 40 OF 51

South Carolina

AT A GLANCE	
Top merit	**Palmetto Fellows Scholarship**
Merit	**LIFE & HOPE Scholarships**
Need-based	**SC Need-Based Grant**
Two-year	**Lottery Tuition Assistance**
529 plan	**Future Scholar**
Agency	**SC CHE**

OVERVIEW

South Carolina funds several merit scholarships from state lottery revenue, administered with the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE), plus need-based grants.

KEY POINTS

- **SC Need-Based Grant** — Need-based aid for South Carolina residents at eligible in-state colleges.
- **Lottery Tuition Assistance** — Helps cover tuition at South Carolina's two-year and technical colleges.
- **SC Tuition Grant** — Need-based aid for students at eligible private, nonprofit SC colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 41 OF 51

South Dakota

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**SD Opportunity Scholarship**
Critical-need service	**Dakota Corps Scholarship**
Technical (full-ride)	**Build Dakota Scholarship**
529 plan	**CollegeAccess**
Agency	**SD Board of Regents**

OVERVIEW

South Dakota's state aid is administered with the South Dakota Board of Regents and Department of Education, emphasizing merit and workforce-aligned scholarships.

KEY POINTS

- **File the FAFSA early** — It's the trigger for state grants and many scholarships
- **Register with South Dakota Board of Regents** — Create the state agency's student account to track and claim awards
- **Confirm your details** — Verify residency, GPA, and enrollment as required
- **Meet any extra requirements** — Some programs need a separate form, GPA, or service commitment

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 42 OF 51

Tennessee

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**Tennessee HOPE Scholarship**
Free community college	**Tennessee Promise**
Adults	**Tennessee Reconnect**
Need-based	**TSAA**
529 plan	**TNStars**
Agency	**TSAC**

OVERVIEW

Tennessee is a national leader in tuition-free community college, and its lottery-funded programs are administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). Its centerpiece is Tennessee Promise, alongside the merit-based HOPE Scholarship.

KEY POINTS

- **Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA)** — The state's need-based grant — file the FAFSA early, as funds are limited.
- **Dual Enrollment Grant** — Funds eligible high-school students taking college courses.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 43 OF 51

Texas

AT A GLANCE

Universities	**TEXAS Grant**
Community college	**TEOG**
Private colleges	**Tuition Equalization Grant**
529 plan	**Texas College Savings Plan**
Prepaid	**Texas Tuition Promise Fund**
Agency	**THECB**

OVERVIEW

Texas administers its state financial aid through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), with need-based grants for different sectors of higher education. Students who aren't eligible for federal aid can apply using the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) instead of the FAFSA.

KEY POINTS

- **TEXAS Grant** — The state's main need-based grant (Toward EXcellence, Access & Success) for students at public...
- **Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)** — Need-based aid for students at public two-year (community/technical) colleges.
- **Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)** — Need-based aid for Texas residents attending private, nonprofit Texas colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 44 OF 51

Utah

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Utah Promise Scholarship**
Merit	**Opportunity Scholarship (Regents')**
529 plan	**my529**
Agency	**Utah Board of Higher Ed**

OVERVIEW

Utah's state aid is coordinated by the Utah Board of Higher Education (Utah System of Higher Education), with a need-based promise scholarship and a merit scholarship for rigorous coursework.

KEY POINTS

- **Utah Promise Scholarship** — A need-based, last-dollar scholarship for Utah residents at public colleges (with a...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 45 OF 51

Vermont

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Vermont Grant**
Free community college	**802 Opportunity Grant (CCV)**
Part-time	**Advancement Grant**
529 plan	**VHEIP (VT 529)**
Agency	**VSAC**

OVERVIEW

Vermont's state aid is administered by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), with need-based grants and a free-community-college program for lower-income residents.

KEY POINTS

- **Vermont Grant (Incentive Grant)** — Vermont's main need-based grant for full-time residents at approved colleges (in-state and...
- **Vermont Advancement Grant** — Need-based aid for part-time Vermont students.
- **Non-Degree Grant** — For Vermonters taking courses toward job skills.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 46 OF 51

Virginia

AT A GLANCE	
Need + merit	Virginia Guaranteed Assistance...
Need-based	Commonwealth Award
Private colleges	Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant
High-demand fields	G3 Program
529 plan	Virginia529
Agency	SCHEV

OVERVIEW

Virginia's state aid is coordinated by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), with need-based grants at public colleges and a tuition-assistance grant for private ones — plus the G3 program for high-demand career fields.

KEY POINTS

- **Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP)** — A need- and merit-based grant for Virginia residents at public colleges who meet GPA...
- **Commonwealth Award** — A need-based grant for Virginia residents at public colleges.
- **Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (VTAG)** — A grant for Virginia residents attending eligible private, nonprofit Virginia colleges (not...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 47 OF 51

Washington

AT A GLANCE

Flagship	**Washington College Grant**
Middle-school pledge	**College Bound Scholarship**
Foster/homeless youth	**Passport to Careers**
529 plan	**GET / DreamAhead**
Agency	**WSAC**
Apply by	**FAFSA or WASFA**

OVERVIEW

Washington runs one of the country's most generous state aid programs — the Washington College Grant — through the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). Undocumented and other students not eligible for federal aid apply via the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

KEY POINTS

- **Washington College Grant (WA Grant)** — A large, income-based grant that can cover full tuition at the lowest income levels (and...
- **College Bound Scholarship** — For income-eligible students who pledge in middle school and meet the requirements — covers...

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 48 OF 51

Washington, D.C.

AT A GLANCE	
Flagship	**DCTAG (up to $10k/yr)**
Adults	**DC Futures**
Last-dollar	**Mayor's Scholars**
529 plan	**DC529**
Agency	**OSSE**
Apply via	**DC OneApp**

OVERVIEW

Washington, D.C.'s state-equivalent aid is administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Its signature program, DCTAG, effectively makes public colleges nationwide affordable at in-state prices for D.C. residents.

KEY POINTS

- **DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG)** — Pays up to $10,000 per year toward the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition at...
- **Mayor's Scholars Undergraduate Program** — A last-dollar scholarship for D.C. residents attending participating local universities.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 49 OF 51

West Virginia

AT A GLANCE

Merit	**PROMISE Scholarship**
Need-based	**WV Higher Education Grant**
Free CC (high-demand)	**WV Invests**
529 plan	**SMART529**
Agency	**WV HEPC**

OVERVIEW

West Virginia's state aid is administered by the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), combining a lottery-funded merit scholarship, a need-based grant, and a free-community-college program.

KEY POINTS

- **WV Higher Education Grant** — Need-based aid for West Virginia residents at eligible in-state (and some regional) colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 50 OF 51

Wisconsin

AT A GLANCE

Need-based	**Wisconsin Grant**
Need + first-gen	**Talent Incentive Program**
Private colleges	**Wisconsin Tuition Grant**
529 plan	**Edvest**
Agency	**HEAB**

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin's state aid is administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB), with need-based grants tailored to each sector of higher education (public universities, technical colleges, and private/tribal colleges).

KEY POINTS

- **Wisconsin Grant** — The main need-based grant, with separate versions for the UW System, Wisconsin Technical...
- **Talent Incentive Program (TIP)** — Grants for the most financially needy and educationally disadvantaged (often first-generation)...
- **Wisconsin Tuition Grant** — Need-based aid for students at private, nonprofit Wisconsin colleges.

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STATE FINANCIAL AID — 51 OF 51

Wyoming

AT A GLANCE

Merit + need	**Hathaway Scholarship**
Adults 24+	**Wyoming's Tomorrow**
High-demand	**Wyoming Works**
Free tuition (Pell)	**Cowboy Commitment (UW)**
529 plan	**No state 529 (use another state's)**
Agency	**WY Dept. of Education / WCCC**

OVERVIEW

Wyoming's standout state aid is the Hathaway Scholarship, funded by a mineral-revenue endowment, with both merit and need components — administered by the Wyoming Department of Education and the Community College Commission.

KEY POINTS

- **File the FAFSA early** — It's the trigger for state grants and many scholarships
- **Register with Wyoming Department of Education** — Create the state agency's student account to track and claim awards
- **Confirm your details** — Verify residency, GPA, and enrollment as required
- **Meet any extra requirements** — Some programs need a separate form, GPA, or service commitment

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