








Maine

Academic Achievement	B 
Academic Achievement of Low-Income and Minority Students	No grade
Return on Investment	D 
Truth in Advertising About Student Proficiency	A 
Rigor of Standards	D 
Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness	B 
21st Century Teaching Force	C 
Flexibility in Management and Policy	C 
Data Quality	F 

Academic Achievement

Student performance in Maine is higher than average. The state stands 9 percentage points above the national average in the percentage of 8th graders at or above the proficient level on the NAEP reading exam.

Academic Achievement of Low-Income and Minority Students

Because the state does not have large enough African-American and Hispanic student populations to meet NAEP sampling requirements, Maine did not receive a grade for the academic achievement of low-income and minority students.

Return on Investment

Student achievement in Maine is low relative to state education spending (after controlling for student poverty, the percentage of students with special needs, and cost of living). As a result, Maine earns a D in our return on investment ranking.

Truth in Advertising About Student Proficiency

Maine gets high marks on the credibility of its student proficiency scores. The grade is based on the difference between the percentage of students identified as proficient in reading and math on 2005 state assessments and the percentage identified as proficient on the NAEP in 2005.

Rigor of Standards

Maine receives a low grade for the rigor of its standards. The state's math and science curriculum standards receive poor marks. Maine also has yet to align its high school graduation requirements with college and workplace expectations or to enact a rigorous graduation exit exam.

Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness

Maine earns a solid grade in this category. Seventy-four percent of its 9th grade students receive a diploma within four years, and the state's 11th and 12th graders perform very well on core Advanced Placement exams.

21st Century Teaching Force

Maine earns middling marks for its teacher workforce policies. While the state tests incoming teachers on their basic skills, it has not opened up alternative routes into the profession.

Flexibility in Management and Policy

The state receives a mediocre grade on how much freedom and flexibility it gives its schools and principals. While 94% of principals report a major degree of influence over new teacher hiring, the state does not have a charter school law.

Data Quality

Maine gets very poor marks for its efforts to collect and report high-quality education data. It lacks the ability most other states have to match individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth.