



# Education Performance Index Comparing Outcomes Across U.S. States

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## Overview

Education outcomes vary significantly across states, reflecting differences in policy, funding structures, and instructional approaches. This index provides a comparative snapshot of system performance, focusing on core indicators such as proficiency, progression, and consistency.

## Introduction

Education systems across the United States operate under different policy frameworks, funding models, and instructional approaches. These differences result in varying levels of student achievement and system performance.

This index provides a structured comparison of state-level outcomes, focusing on measurable indicators of performance.

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## Index Framework

The Educate America Education Performance Index is based on three weighted components:

### 1. Achievement (50%)

Reading and math proficiency levels across key grade levels.

### 2. Progress (30%)

Changes in performance over time.

### 3. Consistency (20%)

Degree of variation in outcomes across districts.

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## Top Tier States (Illustrative Group)

States in the top tier demonstrate:

- Strong proficiency rates across subjects
  - Consistent performance across districts
  - Stable or improving trends over time
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## Mid Tier States

These states show:

- Mixed performance across indicators
  - Greater variation between districts
  - Slower or inconsistent improvement
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## Lower Tier States

Common characteristics include:

- Lower overall proficiency rates
  - Wider performance gaps between districts
  - Limited progress over time
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## Key Patterns

### Consistency Matters More Than Total Spending

States with more consistent outcomes often outperform those with higher overall spending but greater variability.

### Early Performance Predicts Overall Ranking

Strong early-grade outcomes are closely linked to overall system performance.

### Policy Stability Supports Improvement

States with consistent policy approaches tend to show more stable progress.

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## Score Composition

Each state's composite index score is calculated using the following weighted model:

- **Achievement (50%)**  
Based on reading and mathematics proficiency rates across key grade levels
- **Progress (30%)**  
Based on multi-year changes in assessment performance
- **Consistency (20%)**  
Based on variation in outcomes across districts within each state

Scores are normalized on a 0-100 scale to allow for comparison across indicators.

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### State Performance Snapshot (Illustrative Index Table)

State	Achievement Score	Progress Score	Consistency Score	Composite Index
Massachusetts	78	72	80	76.8
Florida	70	75	68	71.4
Texas	68	70	65	68.3
North Carolina	66	69	64	66.8
California	60	62	58	60.6
Nevada	55	58	52	55.9

### Interpreting the Index

- Scores above 75 indicate strong overall system performance
- Scores between 60-75 reflect moderate performance with areas for improvement
- Scores below 60 indicate systemic challenges in outcomes and consistency

The index is designed to highlight patterns rather than provide a definitive ranking.

### Interpretation Notes

This index is intended to provide a comparative overview rather than a definitive ranking of individual systems. Differences in demographics and local conditions should be considered when interpreting results.

### Implications

Comparative analysis highlights the importance of system design, consistency, and long-term policy alignment. Identifying common characteristics among higher-performing systems can inform future improvements.

## Top Performing Systems

States with higher composite scores tend to demonstrate:

- Strong early-grade proficiency rates
  - Lower variation between districts
  - More stable performance trends over time
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## Conclusion

Education performance varies widely across states, but patterns emerge when systems are compared systematically. Understanding these patterns can support more informed policy and practice.

## Key Observation

States with similar funding levels often produce significantly different outcomes, suggesting that system design and instructional consistency play a critical role.

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## Data Sources

- National assessment data (reading and mathematics)
- State-level performance reports
- Longitudinal student achievement data
- Comparative education system analysis