









Michigan

Academic Achievement	C	
Academic Achievement of Low-Income and Minority Students	C	
Return on Investment	C	
Truth in Advertising About Student Proficiency	C	
Rigor of Standards	C	
Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness	C	
21st Century Teaching Force	B	
Flexibility in Management and Policy	B	
Data Quality	D	

Academic Achievement

Student performance in Michigan is middling. While the state's 8th graders stand just below the national average in the percentage scoring at or above the proficient level on the NAEP reading exam, its 4th graders score just above the national average on NAEP reading and math exams.

Academic Achievement of Low-Income and Minority Students

Michigan posts mediocre marks in this category. Only 8% of African-American 4th grade students score at or above the proficient level on the NAEP math exam. The national average for African-American 4th graders is 13%.

Return on Investment

Student achievement in Michigan is modest relative to state education spending (after controlling for student poverty, the percentage of students with special needs, and cost of living). This middling return on investment earns the state a C in our ranking.

Truth in Advertising About Student Proficiency

Michigan gets average 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 exams and the percentage identified as proficient on the NAEP in 2005.

Rigor of Standards

Michigan receives an average grade for the rigor of its standards. While Michigan has aligned its high school graduation requirements with college and workplace expectations, the state's English and science standards receive low marks.

Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness

Michigan earns an average grade in this category. Results for 11th and 12th graders on core Advanced Placement exams were middling. Michigan scores slightly below the national average on high school graduation rates and students' chances for college attendance by age 19.

21st Century Teaching Force

Michigan earns a solid grade for its teacher workforce policies. The state has opened up alternative routes into the profession, tests incoming teachers on their basic skills, and requires high school teachers to pass subject knowledge tests.

Flexibility in Management and Policy

The state receives a solid grade on how much freedom and flexibility it gives its schools and principals. The state has established a virtual school, and its charter school laws receive high marks.

Data Quality

Michigan gets below average marks for its efforts to collect and report high-quality education data. The state does not collect information on untested students, and it does not have a state audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability.