

The Cato Education Market Index

Understanding the State Ratings

By Andrew J. Coulson

The Cato Education Market Index¹ rates the states on the ease with which parents can choose between public and private schools, the freedom schools have to set their own policies and the extent of competition between schools to attract and retain students. The table that follows provides a brief explanation of the ratings received by all fifty states.

¹ Andrew J. Coulson, "The Cato Education Market Index," Cato Policy Analysis no. 585, December 14, 2006.
http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=6848

State**How it scored and why**

Alabama	<p>With a score of just 6 out of 100, Alabama places second to last on the Cato Education Market Index. Both its public and its private schools are among the least free in the nation, hamstrung by regulation and inhibiting the operation of market forces. Alabama has no school choice program of any kind, and, without a dramatic shift in policy, will leave families without real educational choice for the foreseeable future.</p>
Alaska	<p>Alaska places just above the national average with a score of 17. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools, Alaska's public schools are slightly more open to market forces than those in most other states, due to limited parental choice within the system.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at the Alaska's education policies, its rating rises to 20 out of 100. This increase is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created. In the long run, many more Alaskan families may be able to choose charter schools. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's score is small.</p>
Arizona	<p>Arizona places slightly above the national average with a score of 16. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, Arizona has the largest charter school sector in the country. While the state might be expected to earn a higher score due to its scholarship donation tax credit programs, these programs are still too small to substantially affect its overall rating. Even with the tax credit programs, only four percent of Arizona students attend private schools -- less than half the national average. It thus appears that charter schools, due to their "free" tax supported status, may be curtailing enrollment in the much more marketlike private sector.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Arizona's education policies, its score nearly doubles to 30 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But, since charter schools are still far from marketlike, the state's prospects for future improvement remain limited unless its tax credit programs are greatly expanded.</p>
Arkansas	<p>Arkansas matches the national average with a score of 14. It has a tiny charter school sector, a modest private school sector, and is dominated by a typically unfree, uncompetitive public school system. When we ignore current enrollment numbers, however, and look only at the Arkansas's education policies, its rating rises to 23 out of 100. This increase is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created. In the long run, many more Arkansas families may be able to choose charter schools. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's education market climate would still be small.</p>

California	<p>California places just above the national average with a score of 16. Though almost all of the state’s students are enrolled in conventional public schools, California also has small charter and private school sectors.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at California's education policies, its score rises substantially to 29 out of 100. That’s because the state’s charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But, since charter schools are still far from marketlike, the state’s future prospects remain limited under current policy.</p>
Colorado	<p>Colorado falls below the national average with a score of 10. Although the state does have modest charter and private school sectors, virtually all of its students are enrolled in conventional public schools that are among the least free in the nation. In particular, parental choice within Colorado's conventional public schools is extremely constrained.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Colorado's education policies, its score rises slightly to 13 out of 100, because there is some prospect for future growth in the charter school sector. Nevertheless, charter schools are themselves far from marketlike, so the potential for improvement is limited.</p>
Connecticut	<p>With a score of 26, Connecticut is tied for top score with Wisconsin. It comes out on top because its conventional public schools are somewhat less hamstrung by regulation than those in other states, because it has more charter schools than most states, and because its private schools are among the freest in the nation.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Connecticut’s education policies, its score remains virtually unchanged. That’s because the state strictly limits the number of charter schools that can be created, shutting the door on significant future growth in the charter sector. Unless something dramatic changes in Connecticut’s education policy, its score will remain stuck in the mid 20s.</p>
Delaware	<p>Delaware places above the national average with a score of 19. Though the vast majority of students attend conventional public schools, and only a relative handful attend charters, Delaware enjoys one of the largest private education sectors in the country. Over 18 percent of students in the state attend minimally regulated private schools chosen by their parents, raising its market score substantially. That bright spot is overshadowed, however, by the fact that its conventional public schools offer parents less choice and suffer more intrusive regulation than almost any other system in the country.</p>
Florida	<p>Florida places above the national average with a score of 20. Though Florida had a greater variety of school choice programs than any other state, these programs either enrolled a tiny share of the total student population (as was the case with the A+ voucher and the scholarship donation tax credit programs) or fell far short of real market reforms in terms of the freedoms and incentives they offered (as was the case with charter schools). The vast majority of students attend conventional public schools that offer little choice, face little competition, and are hamstrung by regulation.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Florida cannot expect to see a substantial rise in the freedom of its educational marketplace under current policy because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside potential of charter schools is limited due to their many</p>

	<p>non-market characteristics. To significantly raise its score, Florida would have to expand its existing scholarship donation tax credits and/or add personal use education tax credits.</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p>Georgia places just above the national average with a score of 16. Though it has a few charter schools and a modest private education sector, Georgia is dominated by a typically unfree and uncompetitive conventional public school system.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Georgia cannot expect to see a substantial rise in the freedom of its educational marketplace under current policy because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>
<p>Hawaii</p>	<p>Hawaii places slightly above the national average with a score of 17. Though the vast majority of students attend conventional public schools, and only a relative handful attend charters, Hawaii enjoys one of the largest private education sectors in the country. Roughly 17 percent of students attend private schools chosen by their parents. That bright spot is overshadowed, however, by the fact that its conventional public schools offer parents less choice and suffer more intrusive regulation than almost any other system in the country.</p>
<p>Idaho</p>	<p>Idaho places above the national average with a score of 22. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools, Idaho's public schools are slightly more open to market forces than those in most other states, due to parental choice within the system.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at the Idaho's education policies, its rating rises to 27 out of 100. This increase is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created. In the long run, many more Idaho families may thus be able to choose charter schools. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's score is still small.</p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p>Illinois places slightly below the national average with a score of 13. Though it enjoys a somewhat larger than average share of free and competitive private schooling, and a tiny charter school sector, the state's market rating is brought down by the conventional public schools that enroll the vast majority of its students. Illinois public schools offer parents less choice and suffer more intrusive regulation than almost any other public school system in the country. And, unlike many states with charter school programs, Illinois has little upside potential for educational freedom because the total number of charter schools that can be created has been capped by the legislature.</p>

Indiana	<p>Indiana matches the national average with a score of 14. It has a tiny charter school sector, a modest private school sector, and is dominated by a typically unfree, uncompetitive public school system. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Indiana's education policies, however, its rating nearly doubles to 26 out of 100. This increase is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created. In the long run, many more Indiana families may be able to choose charter schools. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's education market climate would still be small.</p>
Iowa	<p>Iowa falls slightly below the national average with a score of 13. Although its public schools are fractionally less hamstrung by regulation and lack of competition than is typically the case, the state's score is brought down by its intrusive regulation of private schools. And while Iowa does have a charter school law, charters enroll so few students as to have a negligible effect on its overall score. Unlike many states with charter school programs, Iowa has little upside potential for educational freedom in the coming years because the total number of charter schools that can be created has been capped by the legislature.</p>
Kansas	<p>Kansas places slightly above the national average with a score of 17. Though it has a few charter schools and a modest private education sector, Georgia is dominated by a typically unfree and uncompetitive conventional public school system.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Georgia cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>
Kentucky	<p>Kentucky falls well below the national average with a score of just 9 out of 100. The state has no charter school program, and its conventional public schools are among the least free, least competitive, and most intrusively regulated in the country. While Kentucky does have a relatively free private school sector, it is slightly below average in size and too small to have a significant impact on the state's overall ranking.</p>
Louisiana	<p>Louisiana places slightly above the national average with a score of 17. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, and it has only a tiny number of charter schools, Louisiana enjoys one of the largest private education sectors in the country. Roughly 16 percent of students attend private schools chosen by their parents, raising its market score.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Louisiana cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>

Maine	<p>Maine places just above the national average with a score of 15. Though virtually all the state's students are enrolled in typically unfree, uncompetitive conventional public schools, it does enjoy a voucher-like private school tuitioning program. That program is so limited in scope, however, enrolling just six percent of students, that it has a negligible impact on Main's overall score. Were the tuitioning program made universal, and permitted to include religious schools, Maine would enjoy the freest education marketplace in the nation.</p>
Maryland	<p>Maryland places just below the national average with a score of 13. Its rating is the product of two opposing factors: Maryland has among the least free, least competitive, and most intrusively regulated public schools in the country, but it also has a larger-than-average share of private sector enrollment. While the state does have a charter school program, it is currently too small to have a measurable impact on Maryland's educational marketplace. If we ignore current enrollment levels, however, and look only at the state's education policies, Maryland's rating jumps to 22 due to the potential for future growth in the charter school sector. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's education market climate would still be modest.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>Massachusetts places slightly above the national average with a score of 16. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, it does have a small number of charter schools and a larger than average share of private schools.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Massachusetts cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>
Michigan	<p>Michigan places slightly above the national average with a score of 17. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, it does have a slightly larger than average share of charter schools, and a fairly typical private schools sector.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Michigan cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics. Adopting an education tax credit program such as the one advocated by the Michigan-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy would, however, make Michigan the national leader in educational freedom and market incentives.</p>
Minnesota	<p>Minnesota places somewhat above the national average with a score of 16. Though the state is dominated by a conventional public school system that offers little choice or competition, Minnesota also has small charter and private school sectors. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Minnesota's education policies, its score rises to 29 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement is still modest.</p>

Mississippi	<p>Mississippi falls below the national average with a score of 10. The state is dominated by conventional public schools that are among the least free, least competitive, and most intrusively regulated in the country. While Mississippi does have a charter school program, it is currently too small to have a measurable impact on the state's overall score. Unlike many states with charter schools, Mississippi cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>
Missouri	<p>Missouri places above the national average with a score of 18. Its advantage stems from the fact that all three of its education sectors (conventional public, charter public, and private) are either slightly freer or slightly larger than those of the typical state. Nevertheless, these advantages are very slight, Missouri has nothing approaching a free educational marketplace.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Missouri cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom under its current education policies, because the state imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>
Montana	<p>Montana falls below the national average with a score of 11. The state has no charter school program, and its conventional public schools are even less free, and even more intrusively regulated, than those of most other states. Montana does have a relatively free private school sector, but it is slightly below average in size and too small to have a significant impact on the state's overall ranking.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Nebraska places slightly above the national average with a score of 16. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, it does have a slightly larger than average share of students enrolled in relatively free, parent-chosen private schools.</p>
Nevada	<p>Nevada falls well below the national average with a score of just 8 out of 100. The state has only a small charter school sector and its conventional public schools are even less free, and even more intrusively regulated, than those of most other states.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Nevada's education policies, its score rises slightly to 11 out of 100, because there is some prospect for future growth in the charter school sector. But, since the total number of charter schools has been capped by the legislature, and since charter schools are themselves far from marketlike, the potential for improvement is limited.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>New Hampshire places somewhat above the national average with a score of 17. Though the state is dominated by a conventional public school system that offers little choice or competition, New Hampshire also has a small number of charter schools, and a private school sector that is marginally larger than the national average. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at New Hampshire's education policies, its score rises to 25 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement is still</p>

	modest.
New Jersey	<p>New Jersey places somewhat above the national average with a score of 19. Though the state is dominated by a conventional public school system that offers little choice or competition, New Jersey also has a number of charter schools and a larger-than-average private school sector. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at New Jersey's education policies, its score rises to 27 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement is still modest.</p>
New Mexico	<p>New Mexico matches the national average with a score of 14. It has a tiny charter school sector, a modest private school sector, and is dominated by a typically unfree, uncompetitive public school system. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at New Mexico's education policies, its rating rises to 16, because there is some prospect for future growth in the charter school sector. But, since the total number of charter schools has been capped by the legislature, and since charter schools are themselves far from marketlike, the potential for improvement is limited.</p>
New York	<p>New York places somewhat above the national average with a score of 18. Though the state is dominated by a conventional public school system that offers little choice or competition, New York also has a number of charter schools and a larger-than-average private school sector. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at New York's education policies, its score rises to 27 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement is still modest. The use of education tax credits to extent school choice to more families, which has been discussed by former governor George Pataki and governor-elect Elliot Spitzer, offer significantly brighter prospects for the future of educational freedom in New York state.</p>
North Carolina	<p>North Carolina falls well below the national average with a score of just 8 out of 10. The state is dominated by conventional public schools that are among the least free, least competitive, and most intrusively regulated in the country. While North Carolina does have a charter school program, it is currently too small to have a measurable impact on the state's overall score. Unlike many states with charter schools, North Carolina cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>

North Dakota	<p>North Dakota falls below the national average with a score of 10. The state has no charter school program, and its conventional public schools are even less free, and even more intrusively regulated, than those of most other states. North Dakota does have a relatively free private school sector, but it is slightly below average in size and too small to have a significant impact on the state's overall ranking.</p>
Ohio	<p>Ohio places somewhat above the national average with a score of 16. Though the state is dominated by a conventional public school system that offers little choice or competition, Ohio also has small charter and private school sectors. Ohio also has one of the nation's few private school voucher programs, but it is so limited in scope that it does not have a significant effect on the state's overall score. When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Ohio's education policies, its score rises to 22 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement is still modest. To see dramatic gains in educational freedom and market forces, Ohio would have to substantially expand its existing voucher program, or add education tax credits for families' own educational expenses or for donations to private scholarship programs serving low-income families.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>Oklahoma places well below the national average with a score of just 9 out of 100. The state has an unusually small private school sector and its conventional public schools are even less free, and even more intrusively regulated, than those of most other states. While Oklahoma does have charter schools, they are currently too few in number to have any impact on the state's overall rating.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers, however, and look only at Oklahoma's education policies, its rating rises to 23 out of 100. This increase is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created. In the long run, many more Oklahoma families may be able to choose charter schools. But since the freedom and market incentives offered by charter schooling are quite limited, so too are the benefits of that sector's expansion.</p>
Oregon	<p>Oregon places below the national average with a score of 10. While Oregon's private education sector is fairly typical in both size and degree of autonomy, its conventional public schools are less free, less competitive, and more intrusively regulated than those in most other states. Oregon does have a charter school program, but it is currently too small to have a measurable impact on the state's overall score. If we ignore current enrollment levels, however, and look only at the state's education policies, Oregon's rating rises to 19, due to the potential for future growth in the charter sector. Of course, since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's education market climate would still be modest.</p>

<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Pennsylvania places above the national average with a score of 18. Though its conventional public schools are actually even less free and competitive than those of most other states, Pennsylvania has a small charter school sector and an unusually large share of students enrolled in competing, minimally regulated, parent-chosen private schools. Part of the reason for this larger independent education sector may be the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, which makes independent schooling accessible to many families who would not otherwise be able to afford it (by offering credits to businesses that donate money to private scholarship-granting organizations).</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers, and look only at Pennsylvania's education policies, its rating rises to 23 out of 100. This increase is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created. In the long run, many more Pennsylvania families may be able to choose charter schools. But since the freedom and market incentives offered by charter schooling are quite limited, so too are the benefits of that sector's expansion. Pennsylvania could enjoy a much more dramatic increase in educational freedom and choice by removing the cap from its EITC program, or by adding a personal use tax credit for families who prefer independent schools for their children.</p>
<p>Rhode Island</p>	<p>Rhode Island places slightly above the national average with a score of 16. Though almost all of the state's students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, it does have a small number of charter schools and a larger than average share of private schools.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Rhode Island cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of a larger charter sector is limited due to the many non-market characteristics of charter schools.</p>
<p>South Carolina</p>	<p>South Carolina falls below the national average with a score of 11. Although the state does have modest charter and private school sectors, virtually all of its students are enrolled in conventional public schools that are among the least free in the nation. In particular, parental choice within South Carolina's conventional public schools is extremely constrained.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at South Carolina's education policies, its score rises slightly to 18 out of 100, because there is some prospect for future growth in its charter school sector. Nevertheless, charter schools are themselves far from marketlike, so the potential for improvement is limited. To see dramatic gains in educational freedom and market forces, South Carolina would have to introduce a school choice program along the lines first proposed by Governor Sanford (e.g., education tax credits both for families own educational costs and for donations to private scholarship granting organizations that provide tuition assistance to low income families).</p>

<p>South Dakota</p>	<p>South Dakota places above the national average with a score of 21. Though almost all of the state’s students are enrolled in conventional public schools, those schools are slightly more open to market forces than public schools in most other states, due to parental choice within the system.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at South Dakota’s education policies, its score remains unchanged. That’s because the state currently lacks any school choice program that might inject market freedoms and incentives in the future.</p>
<p>Tennessee</p>	<p>Tennessee falls below the national average with a score of 11. Although Tennessee does have a handful of charter schools and a fairly typical private school sector, its conventional public schools offer even less parental choice and suffer even more intrusive regulation than is the case in most other states.</p> <p>Unlike many states with charter school programs, Tennessee cannot expect to see a substantial rise in educational freedom over time, because it imposes a cap on the number of charters that can be created. Even without such a cap, however, the upside market potential of charter schools is limited due to their many non-market characteristics.</p>
<p>Texas</p>	<p>Texas places above the national average with a score of 19. Though almost all of the state’s students are enrolled in conventional public schools, Texas public schools are slightly more open to market forces than those in most other states, due to parental choice within the system.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Texas education policies, its score rises substantially to 30 out of 100. That’s because the state’s charter school law leaves open the possibility of considerable growth in charter enrollment. But, since charter schools are still far from marketlike, the state’s future prospects remain limited under current policy.</p>
<p>Utah</p>	<p>Utah has the least education market activity of any state in the union, scoring just 5 out of 100. Utah has an unusually small private school sector and its conventional public schools are among the least free, and most intrusively regulated, in the country. While the state does have charter schools, they are currently too few in number to have a significant impact on its overall rating.</p> <p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers, however, and look only at Utah's education policies, its rating rises to 24 out of 100. This is due to the absence of a tight cap on the number of charter schools that can be created, meaning that, in the long run, many more Utah families may be able to choose charter schools. But since the freedom and market incentives offered by charter schooling are quite limited, so too are the benefits of that sector's expansion.</p>

Vermont	<p>Vermont places just below the national average with a score of 12. Though it enjoys one of the oldest parental choice programs in the nation, a "tuitioning" system dating back to the 19th century that provides vouchers to students in towns without their own schools, the scale of that program is too small for it to have a significant effect on the state's overall level of educational choice and competition. Fully 89 percent of Vermont students are enrolled in conventional public schools that are even less free, and even more intrusively regulated, than those of most other states. If the state were to make its tuitioning program universally available, however, or introduce a comparable education tax credit program (that could include religious schools without running afoul of the state's constitution, Vermont would enjoy the freest education marketplace in the country.</p>
Virginia	<p>Virginia places well below the national average with a score of 9. While Virginia's private education sector is fairly typical in both size and degree of autonomy, its conventional public schools are among the least free, and most intrusively regulated, in the country. Virginia does have a charter school program, but it is currently too small to have a measurable impact on the state's overall score. If we ignore current enrollment levels, however, and look only at the state's education policies, Virginia's rating rises to 19, due to the potential for future growth in its charter sector. Of course, since charters are limited in their market characteristics, the resulting improvement in the state's education market climate would still be modest.</p>
Washington	<p>Washington state matches the national average with a score of 14. Almost all Washington students are enrolled in conventional public schools utterly lacking in market freedoms and incentives, and its private schools are comparable to those of most other states in both their share of total enrollment and their degree of autonomy. Unlike other many other states, however, Washington has no prospect of increased educational freedom in the foreseeable future, as it has no policies on its books that would create real competition and parental choice among state-run and independent schools.</p>
West Virginia	<p>With a score of just 9 out of 100, West Virginia places well below the national average. Both its public and its private schools enjoy less freedom, and suffer more intrusive regulation, than those in most other states. Without a dramatic shift in policy, West Virginia will leave families without real educational choice for the foreseeable future.</p>
Wisconsin	<p>When we ignore current enrollment numbers and look only at Wisconsin's education policies, its score rises to 30 out of 100. That's because the state's charter school law leaves open the possibility of further growth in charter enrollment. But, since charter schools are still far from marketlike, and there is a rigid cap on the number of children allowed into the Milwaukee voucher program, the state's prospects for improvement remain limited under current policy.</p>
Wyoming	<p>With a score of just 7 out of 100, Wyoming places third to last on the Cato Education Market Index. Both its public and its private schools are among the least free in the nation, hamstrung by regulation and inhibiting the operation of market forces. Wyoming's share of students enrolled in the public sector is also the highest in the nation. Without a dramatic shift in policy, the state will continue to leave families</p>

without real educational choice for the foreseeable future.