

| Education Provision in State Constitutions | |
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| AL | <p>Ala. Const. Art. XIV, § 256</p> <p>It is the policy of the state of Alabama to foster and promote the education of its citizens in a manner and extent consistent with its available resources, and the willingness and ability of the individual student, but nothing in this Constitution shall be construed as creating or recognizing any right to education or training at public expense, nor as limiting the authority and duty of the legislature, in furthering or providing for education, to require or impose conditions or procedures deemed necessary to the preservation of peace and order.</p> <p>The legislature may by law provide for or authorize the establishment and operation of schools by such persons, agencies or municipalities, at such places, and upon such conditions as it may prescribe, and for the grant or loan of public funds and the lease, sale or donation of real or personal property to or for the benefit of citizens of the state for educational purposes under such circumstances and upon such conditions as it shall prescribe. Real property owned by the state or any municipality shall not be donated for educational purposes except to nonprofit charitable or eleemosynary corporations or associations organized under the laws of the state.</p> <p>To avoid confusion and disorder and to promote effective and economical planning for education, the legislature may authorize the parents or guardians of minors, who desire that such minors shall attend schools provided for their own race, to make election to that end, such election to be effective for such period and to such extent as the legislature may provide.</p> |
| AK | <p>Alaska Const. Art. 7, § 1</p> <p>The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.</p> |
| AZ | <p>Ariz. Const. Art. 11, § 1</p> <p>The legislature shall enact such laws as shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a general and uniform public school system, which system shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kindergarten schools. 2. Common schools. 3. High schools. 4. Normal schools. 5. Industrial schools. 6. Universities, which shall include an agricultural college, a school of mines, and such other technical schools as may be essential, until such time as it may be deemed advisable to establish separate state institutions of such character. <p>Ariz. Const. Art. 11, § 6</p> <p>The legislature shall provide for a system of common schools by which a free school shall be established and maintained in every school district for at least six months in</p> |

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| | <p>each year, which school shall be open to all pupils between the ages of six and twenty-one years.</p> <p>Ariz. Const. Art. 11, § 9 The laws of the state shall enable cities and towns to maintain free high schools, industrial schools, and commercial schools.</p> |
| AR | <p>Ark. Const. Art. 14, § 1 Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the bulwark of a free and good government, the State shall ever maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools and shall adopt all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education. The specific intention of this amendment is to authorize that in addition to existing constitutional or statutory provisions the General Assembly and/or public school districts may spend public funds for the education of persons over twenty-one (21) years of age and under six (6) years of age, as may be provided by law, and no other interpretation shall be given to it.</p> |
| CA | <p>Cal. Const. Art. 9, § 5 The Legislature shall provide for a system of common schools by which a free school shall be kept up and supported in each district at least six months in every year, after the first year in which a school has been established.</p> <p>Cal. Const. Art. 9, § 6 The Public School System shall include all kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, technical schools, and State colleges, established in accordance with law and, in addition, the school districts and the other agencies authorized to maintain them.</p> <p>Cal. Const. Art. 9, § 1 A general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the Legislature shall encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement.</p> |
| CO | <p>Colo. Const. Art. 9, § 2 The general assembly shall, as soon as practicable, provide for the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools throughout the state, wherein all residents of the state, between the ages of six and twenty-one years, may be educated gratuitously.</p> |
| CT | <p>Conn. Const. Art. 8, § 1 There shall always be free public elementary and secondary schools in the state. The general assembly shall implement this principle by appropriate legislation.</p> <p>Conn. Const. Art. 8, § 2 The state shall maintain a system of higher education, including The University of Connecticut, which shall be dedicated to excellence in higher education.</p> |
| DE | <p>Del. Const. Art. 10, § 1 The General Assembly shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a general and efficient system of free public schools, and may require by law that every child, not physically or mentally disabled, shall attend the public school, unless educated by other means.</p> |
| FL | <p>Fla. Const. Art. 9 § 1 The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education</p> |

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| | <p>of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. . . . Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards.</p> |
| GA | <p>Ga. Const. Art. 8, § 1, ¶ I The provision of an adequate public education for the citizens shall be a primary obligation of the State of Georgia. Public education for the citizens prior to the college or postsecondary level shall be free and shall be provided for by taxation, and the General Assembly may by general law provide for the establishment of education policies for such public education. The expense of other public education shall be provided for in such manner and in such amount as may be provided by law.</p> |
| HI | <p>Haw. Const. Art. 10, § 1 The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical facilities therefor. There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions because of race, religion, sex or ancestry; nor shall public funds be appropriated for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution</p> <p>Haw. Const. Art. 10, § 4 The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools.</p> |
| ID | <p>Idaho Const. Art. IX, § 1 The stability of a republican form of government depending mainly upon the intelligence of the people, it shall be the duty of the legislature of Idaho, to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools.</p> |
| IL | <p>Ill. Const. Art. 10, § 1 A fundamental goal of the People of the State is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities. The State shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services. Education in public schools through the secondary level shall be free. There may be such other free education as the General Assembly provides by law. The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.</p> |
| IN | <p>Ind. Const. Art. 8, § 1 Knowledge and learning, generally diffused throughout a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government; it should be the duty of the General Assembly to encourage, by all suitable means, moral, intellectual, scientific, and agricultural improvement; and to provide, by law, for a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all.</p> <p>Ind. Const. Art. 9, § 1</p> |

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| | It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide, by law, for the support of institutions for the education of the deaf, the mute, and the blind; and, for the treatment of the insane. |
| IA | No provision. |
| KS | Kan. Const. Art. 6, § 1 The legislature shall provide for intellectual, educational, vocational and scientific improvement by establishing and maintaining public schools, educational institutions and related activities which may be organized and changed in such manner as may be provided by law. |
| KY | Ky. Const. § 183 The General Assembly shall, by appropriate legislation, provide for an efficient system of common schools throughout the State. |
| LA | La. Const. Art. 8, § 1 The legislature shall provide for the education of the people of the state and shall establish and maintain a public educational system. La. Const. Art. 8, § 13 The legislature shall appropriate funds to supply free school books and other materials of instruction prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to the children of this state at the elementary and secondary levels. La. Const. Art. VIII, Preamble The goal of the public educational system is to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential. |
| ME | Me. Const. Art. 8, Pt. 1, § 1 A general diffusion of the advantages of education being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people; to promote this important object, the Legislature are authorized, and it shall be their duty to require, the several towns to make suitable provision, at their own expense, for the support and maintenance of public schools; and it shall further be their duty to encourage and suitably endow, from time to time, as the circumstances of the people may authorize, all academies, colleges and seminaries of learning within the State |
| MD | Md. Const. Art. 8, § 1 The General Assembly, at its First Session after the adoption of this Constitution, shall by Law establish throughout the State a thorough and efficient System of Free Public Schools; and shall provide by taxation, or otherwise, for their maintenance. |
| MA | No provision. |
| MI | Mich. Const. Art. 8, § 2 The legislature shall maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by law. Every school district shall provide for the education of its pupils without discrimination as to religion, creed, race, color or national origin. Mich. Const. Art. 8, § 9 The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment and support of public libraries which shall be available to all residents of the state under regulations adopted by the governing bodies thereof. All fines assessed and collected in the several counties, |

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| | <p>townships and cities for any breach of the penal laws shall be exclusively applied to the support of such public libraries, and county law libraries as provided by law.</p> <p>Mich. Const. Art. 8, § 1 Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.</p> |
| MN | <p>Minn. Const. Art. 13, § 1 The stability of a republican form of government depending mainly upon the intelligence of the people, it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools. The legislature shall make such provisions by taxation or otherwise as will secure a thorough and efficient system of public schools throughout the state.</p> |
| MS | <p>Miss. Const. Art. 8, § 201 The Legislature shall, by general law, provide for the establishment, maintenance and support of free public schools upon such conditions and limitations as the Legislature may prescribe.</p> <p>Miss. Const. Art. 8, § 209 It shall be the duty of the legislature to provide by law for the support of institutions for the education of the deaf, dumb, and blind.</p> |
| MO | <p>Mo. Const. Art. 9, § 1(a) A general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the general assembly shall establish and maintain free public schools for the gratuitous instruction of all persons in this state within ages not in excess of twenty-one years as prescribed by law.</p> <p>Mo. Const. Art. 9, § 10 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to promote the establishment and development of free public libraries and to accept the obligation of their support by the state and its subdivisions and municipalities in such manner as may be provided by law. When any such subdivision or municipality supports a free library, the general assembly shall grant aid to such public library in such manner and in such amounts as may be provided by law.</p> |
| MT | <p>Mont. Const. Art. 10, § 1 It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state. . . . The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable.</p> |
| NE | <p>Neb. Const. Art. VII, § 1 The Legislature shall provide for the free instruction in the common schools of this state of all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years. The Legislature may provide for the education of other persons in educational institutions owned and controlled by the state or a political subdivision thereof.</p> |
| NV | <p>Nev. Const. Art. 11, § 2 The legislature shall provide for a uniform system of common schools, by which a school shall be established and maintained in each school district at least six months in every year, and any school district which shall allow instruction of a sectarian character</p> |

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| | <p>therein may be deprived of its proportion of the interest of the public school fund during such neglect or infraction, and the legislature may pass such laws as will tend to secure a general attendance of the children in each school district upon said public schools.</p> <p>Nev. Const. Art. 11, § 4 The Legislature shall provide for the establishment of a State University which shall embrace departments for Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, and Mining to be controlled by a Board of Regents whose duties shall be prescribed by Law.</p> <p>Nev. Const. Art. 11, § 1 The legislature <u>shall</u> encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, literary, scientific, mining, mechanical, agricultural, and moral improvements</p> |
| NH | No provision. |
| NJ | No provision. |
| NM | <p>N.M. Const. Art. 12, § 1 A uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained.</p> <p>N.M. Const. Art. 21, § 4 Provision shall be made for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools which shall be open to all the children of the state and free from sectarian control, and said schools shall always be conducted in English.</p> |
| NY | <p>N.Y. Const. Art. 11, § 1 The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated.</p> |
| NC | <p>N.C. Const. Art. I, § 15 The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.</p> <p>N.C. Const. Art. IX, § 2 The General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools, which shall be maintained at least nine months in every year, and wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students.</p> <p>N.C. Const. Art. IX, § 8 The General Assembly shall maintain a public system of higher education, comprising The University of North Carolina and such other institutions of higher education as the General Assembly may deem wise.</p> <p>N.C. Const. Art. IX, § 9 The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of The University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense.</p> <p>N.C. Const. Art. IX, § 1 Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools, libraries, and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.</p> |
| ND | <p>N.D. Const. Art. 8, § 1 A high degree of intelligence, patriotism, integrity and morality on the part of every voter in a government by the people being necessary in order to insure the continuance of that government and the prosperity and happiness of the people, the legislative assembly shall make provision for the establishment and maintenance of a system of</p> |

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| | <p>public schools which shall be open to all children of the state of North Dakota and free from sectarian control. This legislative requirement shall be irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of North Dakota.</p> <p>N.D. Const. Art. 8, § 2 The legislative assembly shall provide for a uniform system of free public schools throughout the state, beginning with the primary and extending through all grades up to and including schools of higher education, except that the legislative assembly may authorize tuition, fees and service charges to assist in the financing of public schools of higher education.</p> <p>N.D. Const. Art. 8, § 3 In all schools instruction shall be given as far as practicable in those branches of knowledge that tend to impress upon the mind the vital importance of truthfulness, temperance, purity, public spirit, and respect for honest labor of every kind.</p> <p>N.D. Const. Art. 8, § 4 The legislative assembly shall take such other steps as may be necessary to prevent illiteracy, secure a reasonable degree of uniformity in course of study, and to promote industrial, scientific, and agricultural improvements.</p> |
| OH | <p>Ohio Const. Art. VI, § 2 The general assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State</p> <p>Ohio Const. Art. I, § 7 Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to pass suitable laws . . . to encourage schools and the means of instruction.</p> |
| OK | <p>Okla. Const. Art. 1, § 5 Provisions shall be made for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools, which shall be open to all the children of the state and free from sectarian control; and said schools shall always be conducted in English: Provided, that nothing herein shall preclude the teaching of other languages in said public schools.</p> <p>Okla. Const. Art. 13, § 1 The Legislature shall establish and maintain a system of free public schools wherein all the children of the State may be educated.</p> <p>Okla. Const. Art. 13, § 2 The Legislature shall provide for the establishment and support of institutions for the care and education of persons within the state who are deaf, deaf and mute or blind.</p> <p>Okla. Const. Art. 13, § 6 The Legislature shall provide for a system of textbooks for the common schools of the State, and the State through appropriate legislation shall furnish such textbooks free of cost for use by all pupils therein.</p> <p>Okla. Const. Art. 13, § 7 The Legislature shall provide for the teaching of the elements of agriculture, horticulture, stock feeding, and domestic science in the common schools of the State.</p> |
| OR | <p>Or. Const. Art. VIII, § 3 The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the establishment of a uniform, and general system of Common schools.</p> |

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| PA | Pa. Const. Art. 3, § 14 The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth. |
| RI | R.I. Const. Art. 12, § 1 The diffusion of knowledge, as well as of virtue among the people, being essential to the preservation of their rights and liberties, it shall be the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services. |
| SC | S.C. Const. Art. XI, § 3 The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free public schools open to all children in the State and shall establish, organize and support such other public institutions of learning, as may be desirable. |
| SD | S.D. Const. Art. 8, § 1 The stability of a republican form of government depending on the morality and intelligence of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature to establish and maintain a general and uniform system of public schools wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all; and to adopt all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education. S.D. Const. Art. 26, § 18 That provision shall be made for the establishment and maintenance of systems of public schools, which shall be open to all the children of this state, and free from sectarian control. |
| TN | Tenn. Const. Art. 11, § 12 The State of Tennessee recognizes the inherent value of education and encourages its support. The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools. The General Assembly may establish and support such postsecondary educational institutions, including public institutions of higher learning, as it determines. |
| TX | Tex. Const. Art. 7, § 1 A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. Tex. Const. Art. 7, § 10 The Legislature shall as soon as practicable establish, organize and provide for the maintenance, support and direction of a University of the first class, to be located by a vote of the people of this State, and styled, "The University of Texas", for the promotion of literature, and the arts and sciences, including an Agricultural, and Mechanical department. |
| UT | Utah Const. Art. 10, § 1 The Legislature shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of the state's education systems including: (a) a public education system, which shall be open to all children of the state; and (b) a higher education system. Both systems shall be free from sectarian control. |
| VT | No provision |

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| VA | <p>Va. Const. Art. 8, § 1 The General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained.</p> <p>Va. Const. Art. 8, § 3 The General Assembly shall provide for the compulsory elementary and secondary education of every eligible child of appropriate age, such eligibility and age to be determined by law. It shall ensure that textbooks are provided at no cost to each child attending public school whose parent or guardian is financially unable to furnish them.</p> |
| WA | <p>Wash. Const. Art. 9, § 2 The legislature shall provide for a general and uniform system of public schools. The public school system shall include common schools, and such high schools, normal schools, and technical schools as may hereafter be established.</p> <p>Wash. Const. Art. 9, § 1 It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.</p> |
| WV | <p>W. Va. Const. Art. 12, § 1 The Legislature shall provide, by general law, for a thorough and efficient system of free schools.</p> <p>W. Va. Const. Art. 12, § 12 The Legislature shall foster and encourage, moral, intellectual, scientific and agricultural improvement; it shall, whenever it may be practicable, make suitable provision for the blind, mute and insane, and for the organization of such institutions of learning as the best interests of general education in the state may demand.</p> |
| WI | <p>Wis. Const. Art. 10, § 3 The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of district schools, which shall be as nearly uniform as practicable; and such schools shall be free and without charge for tuition to all children between the ages of 4 and 20 years.</p> |
| WY | <p>Wyo. Const. Art. 7, § 1 The legislature shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a complete and uniform system of public instruction, embracing free elementary schools of every needed kind and grade, a university with such technical and professional departments as the public good may require and the means of the state allow, and such other institutions as may be necessary.</p> <p>Wyo. Const. Art. 1, § 23 The right of the citizens to opportunities for education should have practical recognition. The legislature shall suitably encourage means and agencies calculated to advance the sciences and liberal arts.</p> |

