



RANK: 1=best; 50=worst | SCORE: 10=best; 0=worst

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2026 CHILDCARE REGULATION RANKINGS

U.S. RANK
48TH

CHILDCARE FREEDOM SCORE
1.88

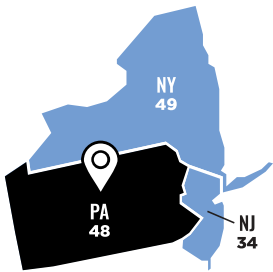
REGULATORY CONSISTENCY
HIGH

AREA	RANK
Child-to-Staff Ratio	43
Group Size	48

AREA	RANK
Training Hours	8
Education Requirements	50

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

Pennsylvania ranks 2nd in the region for childcare freedom. (1=best; 3=worst)



OVERALL U.S. RANKING

Pennsylvania ranks 48th in the nation for childcare freedom. (1=best; 50=worst)

- 46 Massachusetts
- 47 Maryland
- 48 Pennsylvania**
- 49 New York
- 50 Vermont

CHILDCARE REGULATIONS



MOST STRINGENT REGULATION

Minimum education requirements for teachers (associate degree in early childhood education or a related field) + Minimum education requirements for directors (bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field) + Maximum group size for 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds (20)



LEAST STRINGENT REGULATION

Annual staff training hours (12)

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania**
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming