



MEASURING UP TO THE MODEL: A RANKING OF STATE CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS

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Acknowledgements

This report was written by Todd Ziebarth, senior vice president for state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Introduction

2015 has proved to be another active year for charter public school legislation across the country. For starters, we saw significant activity regarding potential enabling legislation in several of the states without charter public school laws. Most notably, Alabama became the 43rd state to enact a charter school law.

We saw a handful of states lift restrictions on growth. For example, New York made some important adjustments to its cap to allow more charter public school growth in New York City and more charter-authorizing activity by the State University of New York. In addition, Oklahoma expanded charters statewide.

We saw several states strengthen their authorizing environments. For instance, Connecticut bolstered its requirements for performance-based charter contracts, Indiana strengthened its charter application processes and authorizer accountability provisions, and Oklahoma strengthened its authorizer accountability requirements and enacted clear processes for renewals and closures (including automatic closure requirements for charter schools ranked in the bottom 5 percent of all public schools in the state, with exceptions for certain circumstances). Also of note, Virginia passed a resolution that amends the state constitution to allow the state board of education to authorize charter public schools. The resolution must be passed again by the legislature during the 2016 session and approved by voters during the November 2016 elections before it becomes law.

We also saw several states improve their support for charter public school funding and facilities. For example, Arkansas created the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Facilities Funding Aid Program, authorized up to \$20 million in funding to this program, and appropriated \$5 million in funding to it. Also, Indiana created a new \$500 per charter public school student allotment that must be used primarily for facilities and transportation purposes (provided that schools meet performance expectations) and created a new \$50 million charter public school loan program that will allow charter schools to borrow up to \$5 million each at 1 percent interest for facilities and a wide range of educational needs (qualification for the loan is based on the same performance criteria used to receive the facilities allotment). And Ohio increased per-pupil funding for charter facilities by \$50 per year (which takes the total to \$150 per pupil in fiscal year 2016 and to \$200 per pupil in fiscal year 2017), created a \$25 million Community School Classroom Facilities grant program for high-performing charter schools, and expanded the ability of traditional districts to levy taxes for community schools that are sponsored by exemplary sponsors.

At the same time that we saw significant positive action in many states, we also saw charter opponents increase the intensity of their efforts to weaken charter laws, with the goal of thwarting the growth of high-quality charter public schools. Aggressive anti-charter efforts in such states as Connecticut, Illinois, and Rhode Island were largely defeated; however, it is fair to assume that these efforts will continue (and increase in their intensity) in 2016 and beyond.

2015 was a largely positive year for charter public school legislation across the country. As charter public school supporters engage in advocacy efforts in 2016 to strengthen and defend charter public school laws, we hope that this report will be a useful tool. The goal of our collective efforts must remain focused on how best to create more high-quality charter public schools, particularly for those students who are most in need of such options.

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The 2016 State Charter School Rankings

Given all of the legislative activity across the country this year, there were some notable shifts in the rankings. Here are the major takeaways:

- **Indiana** is ranked first this year for the first time ever, moving up from #5 in last year's report. This shift is the result, most recently, of legislative changes related to autonomy, accountability, and funding made in 2015. From a longer-term perspective, though, it is the culmination of efforts by two governors and several key legislators from the House and the Senate since 2011 to ensure that Indiana has the strongest charter school law in the country. When we released our first state charter laws rankings report in January 2010, Indiana was ranked #29.
- **Alabama** is ranked second this year, their first year in the rankings. Alabama became the 43rd state to enact a charter public school law in 2015. What is perhaps most notable about this law is its strength: Alabama lawmakers took great care in writing this law to ensure that the state heeded the lessons learned in the first almost quarter-century of the charter movement. As a result, they enacted the second-strongest law in the country.
- **Minnesota** dropped from #1 to #3. This year marks only the second time in the seven years that we have produced this report that Minnesota has not ranked at #1. Still, it is important to note that this drop was because of aggressive changes made in other states, not due to any steps backward in Minnesota.
- The biggest jump in the rankings this year was made by **Oklahoma**, because it enacted legislation that overhauled its law in several places, including statewide expansion, school and authorizer accountability, and replication of high-quality charters. Oklahoma moved 17 spots, from #36 to #19. Its point total jumped from 112 to 147 points. This 35-point increase was the highest in this year's report.
- **Nevada** moved up six spots, from #14 to #8, because it enacted legislation that strengthened its charter application processes, clarified the guidelines for charter public school partnerships with educational service providers, and encouraged replication and expansion of high-quality charter public schools.
- **Georgia** moved up five spots, from #23 to #18, because it enacted regulations that strengthened authorizer accountability, charter school monitoring processes, and charter school autonomy.
- **Ohio** also moved up five spots, from #28 to #23, because it enacted legislation that improved its authorizer funding provisions and strengthened its charter school monitoring processes. It is important to note that the legislation enacted in Ohio made a lot of other positive changes to the state's law; it dealt with some specific challenges that have emerged in Ohio's unique environment that are not covered in the National Alliance's model law.
- While **Wisconsin** only moved from #38 to #37, its point total jumped from 79 to 110 points. This 31-point increase was the second highest in this year's report. Wisconsin enacted legislation that created additional authorizers in certain parts of the state, strengthened school and authorizer accountability, enhanced school autonomy, and encouraged replication

The 2016 State Charter School Law Rankings

and expansion of high-quality charter public schools.

- Although Connecticut only moved from #35 to #31, its point total jumped from 113 to 129 points. This 16-point increase tied with Indiana for the third highest in this year's report. In 2015, Connecticut enacted legislation that strengthened charter public school accountability.
- Delaware moved down five spots, from #19 to #24, because it enacted a moratorium on charter public school growth in Wilmington.
- Maryland remained #43 (out of 43), meaning it still has the weakest charter public school law in the country.

Table 1 below contains the full 2016 State Charter Public School Law Rankings.

Table 1: 2016 State Charter Public School Law Rankings¹

| 2016 Ranking | State | 2016 Score | 2015 Score | Score Difference | 2015 Ranking | Ranking Difference |
|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Indiana | 177 | 161 | 16 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | Alabama | 175 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 3 | Minnesota | 174 | 174 | 0 | 1 | -2 |
| 4 | Louisiana | 167 | 167 | 0 | 2 | -2 |
| 5 | Colorado | 165 | 159 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | Maine | 163 | 163 | 0 | 3 | -3 |
| 7 | New York | 162 | 157 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| 8 | Nevada | 162 | 150 | 12 | 14 | 6 |
| 9 | Florida | 156 | 156 | 0 | 8 | -1 |
| 10 | Arizona | 154 | 151 | 3 | 12 | 2 |
| 11 | Massachusetts | 153 | 147 | 6 | 17 | 6 |
| 12 | D.C. | 153 | 153 | 0 | 9 | -3 |
| 13 | South Carolina | 152 | 152 | 0 | 10 | -3 |
| 14 | North Carolina | 152 | 148 | 4 | 16 | 2 |
| 15 | California | 152 | 152 | 0 | 11 | -4 |
| 16 | New Mexico | 150 | 150 | 0 | 13 | -3 |
| 17 | Mississippi | 149 | 149 | 0 | 15 | -2 |
| 18 | Georgia | 147 | 137 | 10 | 23 | 5 |
| 19 | Oklahoma | 147 | 112 | 35 | 36 | 17 |
| 20 | Utah | 145 | 145 | 0 | 18 | -2 |

¹ In case of a tie, we first looked at each state's total weighted score for the four quality-control components; whichever state had the highest score was ranked higher. If the states had the same total weighted score for these components, then we looked at each state's total weighted score for the two funding components; whichever state had the highest score was ranked higher. If the states had the same total weighted score for these components, then we looked at each state's total weighted score for the three autonomy components (i.e., #11, #13, and #14); whichever state had the highest score was ranked higher.

The 2016 State Charter School Law Rankings

| 2016 Ranking | State | 2016 Score | 2015 Score | Score Difference | 2015 Ranking | Ranking Difference |
|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 21 | Michigan | 143 | 141 | 2 | 21 | 0 |
| 22 | Idaho | 141 | 141 | 0 | 20 | -2 |
| 23 | Ohio | 140 | 130 | 10 | 28 | 5 |
| 24 | Delaware | 138 | 142 | -4 | 19 | -5 |
| 25 | Texas | 137 | 137 | 0 | 22 | -3 |
| 26 | Hawaii | 136 | 136 | 0 | 24 | -2 |
| 27 | Pennsylvania | 133 | 133 | 0 | 25 | -2 |
| 28 | Oregon | 133 | 133 | 0 | 26 | -2 |
| 29 | Arkansas | 132 | 128 | 4 | 30 | 1 |
| 30 | Missouri | 132 | 132 | 0 | 27 | -3 |
| 31 | Connecticut | 129 | 113 | 16 | 35 | 4 |
| 32 | Illinois | 129 | 129 | 0 | 29 | -3 |
| 33 | New Hampshire | 128 | 128 | 0 | 31 | -2 |
| 34 | Tennessee | 124 | 120 | 4 | 32 | -2 |
| 35 | Rhode Island | 118 | 116 | 2 | 33 | -2 |
| 36 | New Jersey | 118 | 116 | 2 | 34 | -2 |
| 37 | Wisconsin | 110 | 79 | 31 | 38 | 1 |
| 38 | Wyoming | 87 | 87 | 0 | 37 | -1 |
| 39 | Virginia | 80 | 76 | 4 | 40 | 1 |
| 40 | Alaska | 78 | 78 | 0 | 39 | -1 |
| 41 | Iowa | 63 | 63 | 0 | 41 | 0 |
| 42 | Kansas | 60 | 60 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| 43 | Maryland | 49 | 41 | 8 | 43 | 0 |

Note: The total number of points possible is 228.

It is important to note that our primary focus was to assess whether and how state laws and regulations addressed the National Alliance model law, not whether and how practices in the state addressed it. In a few areas—such as caps, multiple authorizers, and funding—we incorporated what was happening in practice because we felt it was necessary to do so to fairly capture the strength of the law. Notwithstanding these instances, the purpose of the analyses is to encourage state laws and regulations to require best practices and to guarantee charter public school rights and freedoms so that state charter movements will benefit from a supportive legal and policy environment.

Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law

In this report, we evaluate each state’s charter school law against the 20 essential components of a strong charter public school law. These 20 components are drawn from the National Alliance’s *A New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Public Charter Schools*. Below we provide a table of the 20 components and a brief description of each.

Table 2: Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law

| Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | |
|--|---|
| 1 | No Caps on the growth of charter public schools in a state. |
| 2 | A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed , including new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available , including nonlocal school board authorizers, to which charter applicants may directly apply. |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required , whereby all authorizers must affirm interest to become an authorizer (except in the case of a legislatively created state charter public school commission) and participate in an authorizer reporting program based on objective data, as overseen by some state-level entity with the power to remedy. |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding , including provisions for guaranteed funding from state or authorizer fees, and public accountability for such expenditures. |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes , including comprehensive academic, operational, governance, and performance application requirements, with such applications reviewed and acted upon following professional authorizer standards. |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required , with such contracts created as separate postapplication documents between authorizers and public charter schools, detailing at least academic performance expectations, operational performance expectations, and school and authorizer rights and duties. |
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes so that all authorizers can verify charter public school compliance with applicable law and their performance-based contracts. |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions , including school closure and dissolution procedures to be used by all authorizers. |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed , provided there is a clear performance contract between the independent charter public school board and the service provider and there are no conflicts of interest between the two entities. |

Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law |
|----|--|
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards , whereby charter public schools are created as autonomous entities, with their boards having most of the powers granted to other traditional public school district boards. |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures , which must be followed by all charter public schools. |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations , except for those covering health, safety, civil rights, student accountability, employee criminal history checks, open meetings, freedom of information requirements, and generally accepted accounting principles. |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption , whereby charter public schools are exempt from any outside collective bargaining agreements while not interfering with laws and other applicable rules that protect the rights of employees to organize and to be free from discrimination. |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed , whereby an independent charter public school board may oversee multiple schools linked under a single charter contract or may hold multiple charter contracts. |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access , whereby (a) charter public school students and employees are eligible for state- and district-sponsored interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, and recognition programs to the same extent as traditional public school students and employees; and (b) students at charters that do not provide extracurricular and interscholastic activities have access to those activities at traditional public schools for free via a mutual agreement. |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities , including clarity on which entity is the local education agency responsible for such services and how such services are to be funded (especially for low-incident, high-cost cases). |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding , owing to the school in a timely fashion and in the same amount as district schools, following eligibility criteria similar to all other public schools. |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities , including multiple provisions, such as a per-pupil facility allowance (equal to statewide average per-pupil capital costs), facility grant and revolving loan programs, a charter school bonding authority (or access to all relevant state tax-exempt bonding authorities available to all other public schools), the right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market value a closed or unused public school facility or property, and clarity that no state or local entity may impose any facility-related requirements that are stricter than those applied to traditional public schools. |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems , with the option to participate in a similar manner to all other public schools. |

Leading States for the 20 Essential Components of the National Alliance Model Law

This year's rankings report again details the leaders for each of the 20 essential components of the National Alliance model law—that is, those states that received the highest rating for a particular component. For 18 of the 20 components, the leading states received a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 4. For Component #18 and Component #19, no states received a 4, so the leading states are those that received a rating of 3. Table 3 lists the leading states for each component.

Table 3: Leading States for the 20 Essential Components of the National Alliance Model Law²

| Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | | Leading States |
|--|--|---|
| 1 | No Caps (20 states) | Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed (33 states) | Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available (14 states) | Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required (3 states) | Alabama, District of Columbia, Hawaii |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding (3 states) | Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes (1 state) | Louisiana |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required (1 state) | Maine |
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes (16 states) | Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina |

² While we recognize that the District of Columbia is not a state, for the purposes of our report, we have treated it as such.

Leading States for the 20 Essential Components of the National Alliance Model Law

| Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | | Leading States |
|--|--|--|
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions (7 states) | Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed (8 states) | Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards (28 states) | Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures (3 states) | Alabama, District of Columbia, Maine |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations (5 states) | Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Oklahoma |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption (24 states) | Alabama, Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed (16 states) | Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access (1 state) | South Carolina |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities (11 states) | Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding (1 state) | New Mexico |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities (5 states) | California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Indiana, Utah |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems (13 states) | Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah |

ALABAMA

Below is a general summary of Alabama's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/AL

| | |
|------|---|
| 2 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 175 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2015 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| N/A | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| N/A | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Alabama became the 43rd state to enact a charter public school law in 2015. What is perhaps most notable about this law is its strength. Alabama lawmakers took great care in writing this law to ensure that the state heeded the lessons learned within the first almost quarter-century of the charter movement. As a result, they enacted the second-strongest law in the country.

Recommendations

- Alabama's law contains a cap that allows for adequate growth, allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality-control components, gives operational autonomy to charters, and provides equitable operational and categorical funding to charters. The primary weakness of the law is that it provides inequitable facilities funding.
- The main place for improvement is ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Alabama's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. The authorizing activity in the state has just started, as the state recently enacted its charter law. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides eligibility but not access. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but requires other schools to participate. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 175 |

ALASKA

Below is a general summary of Alaska's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/AK

| | |
|-------|---|
| 40 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 78 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 27 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 6,224 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Alaska's score remained at 78 points. Its ranking moved from #39 to #40.

Recommendations

- Alaska's law does not cap charter public school growth and includes an appellate mechanism for charter applicants rejected by local school boards, but it also provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable facilities funding.
- Alaska's law still needs major improvement. Potential starting points include beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Alaska's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides access to extracurricular and interscholastic activities at noncharter public schools. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter public school students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 78 |

ARIZONA

Below is a general summary of Arizona's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/AZ

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 154 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1994 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 623 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 165,961 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Arizona's score increased from 151 points to 154 points because of new policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking moved from #12 to #10.

Recommendations

- Arizona's law does not have a cap on charter public school growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its charter public schools; however, the law still provides inequitable funding to charter public students by barring their access to significant funding streams.
- Potential areas for improvement in Arizona's law include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and providing adequate authorizer funding.

Summary of Arizona's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 154 |

ARKANSAS

Below is a general summary of Arkansas' law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/AR

| | |
|--------|--|
| 29 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 132 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 45 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 19,179 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Arkansas's score increased from 128 points to 132 points because of new policies for Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities). Its ranking went from #30 to #29.

Recommendations

- While Arkansas' law has a cap on charter public school growth, it is structured in a way that allows ample growth. Although the state law provides adequate accountability provisions, it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include creating additional authorizing options; increasing operational autonomy; ensuring equitable operational funding; and building off the changes made to the law in 2015, further ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Arkansas' Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires some charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows an independent charter public school board to oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 132 |

CALIFORNIA

Below is a general summary
of California's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/CA](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/CA)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 15 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 152 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1992 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 1,184 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014–15 |
| 544,980 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014–15 |

Changes in 2016

- California's score remained at 152 points. Its ranking went from #11 to #15. It is important to note that this drop was because of aggressive changes made in other states, not due to any steps backward in California.

Recommendations

- California's law has a cap that allows ample growth, provides a robust appellate process, provides a fair amount of autonomy but lacks some aspects of the model law's accountability provisions, and has made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charter public schools—although some work remains to be done.
- Potential areas for improvement in its charter public school law include strengthening authorizer accountability, beefing up requirements for performance-based charter contracts, and enacting the model law's statutory guidelines for relationships between charter public schools and educational service providers.

Summary of California's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 1 | 4 | 4 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows either of these arrangements but requires only schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law does not explicitly address charter eligibility and access, but under the state's statutorily defined "permissive" education code, these practices are permitted because they are not expressly prohibited. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | Evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent, but recent policy changes have likely reduced this gap. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 152 |

COLORADO

Below is a general summary
of Colorado's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/CO](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/CO)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 5 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 165 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1993 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 214 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 100,506 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Colorado's score increased from 159 points to 165 points because of new policies for Component #15 (Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed). Its ranking went from #6 to #5.

Recommendations

- Colorado's law does not cap charter public school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, and provides multiple authorizers or a robust appellate process for charter school applicants; however, it still provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Potential areas for improvement in the law include ensuring equitable operational funding; ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities; and clarifying student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.

Summary of Colorado's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified unless a waiver is granted in the charter contract. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not directly address this issue but has been consistently interpreted to exempt charter schools from district collective bargaining agreements. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 165 |

CONNECTICUT

Below is a general summary of Connecticut's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/CT

| | |
|-------|---|
| 31 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 129 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1997 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 22 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 8,036 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Connecticut's score increased from 113 points to 129 points because of new policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), and Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed). Its ranking went from #35 to #31.

Recommendations

- Connecticut's law contains significant restrictions on growth; includes a single authorizer; and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Much improvement is still needed in Connecticut's charter public school law, including lifting its remaining restrictions on growth, providing additional authorizing options, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Connecticut's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for limited growth. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law prohibits these arrangements. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 129 |

DELAWARE

Below is a general summary
of Delaware's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/DE](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/DE)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 24 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 138 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 24 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 11,346 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Delaware's score decreased from 142 points to 138 points. Its score decreased because of a new policy for Component #1 (No Caps) but increased because of a change in the methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking went from #19 to #24.

Recommendations

- Delaware's law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its charter public schools, but it contains a moratorium on charter public school growth in Wilmington and provides inequitable funding to charters.
- Delaware's law still needs improvement in several areas, including lifting the moratorium on charter public school growth in Wilmington, ensuring equitable operational and facilities funding, and ensuring adequate authorizing funding.

Summary of Delaware's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for ensuring state funding for low-incident, high-cost services but not for providing services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 138 |

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Below is a general summary of the District of Columbia's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/DC

| | |
|--------|--|
| 12 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 153 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 112 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 37,684 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- D.C.'s score remained at 153 points. Its ranking went from #9 to #12. It is important to note that this drop was because of aggressive changes made in other states, not due to any steps backward in D.C.

Recommendations

- D.C.'s law has a cap on charter public schools that allows for ample growth, includes an independent charter board as the authorizer, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability; however, it also provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- The biggest area for potential improvement is ensuring equitable operational funding for charter public schools.

Summary of the District of Columbia's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides eligibility but not access. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides that only employees transferring from a local district school to a charter school may elect to stay in the D.C. retirement system. Otherwise, charter employees do not have access to the system. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 153 |

FLORIDA

Below is a general summary of Florida's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/FL

| | |
|---------|--|
| 9 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 156 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 653 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 250,583 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Florida's score remained at 156 points. Its ranking went from #8 to #9.

Recommendations

- Florida's law does not have a cap on charter public school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides a robust appellate process for charter school applicants; however, it still provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Potential areas for improvement include creating authorizer accountability requirements and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities

Summary of Florida's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows multicharter contract boards but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides both eligibility and access to students but not employees. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 156 |

GEORGIA

Below is a general summary of Florida's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/GA

| | |
|--------|---|
| 18 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 147 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1994 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 103 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 83,277 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Georgia's score increased from 137 points to 147 points because of new policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), and Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards). Its ranking went from #23 to #18.

Recommendations

- While Georgia's law does not cap charter public school growth, provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, and provides adequate autonomy and accountability, it does provide inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and enacting the model laws' statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools via multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter contract boards.

Summary of Georgia's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 147 |

HAWAII

Below is a general summary of Hawaii's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/HI

| | |
|--------|--|
| 26 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 136 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1994 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 34 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 10,413 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Hawaii's score remained at 136 points. Its ranking moved from #24 to #26.

Recommendations

- Hawaii's law does not cap charter public school growth, provides a single authorizing option to applicants, and provides sufficient accountability; however, the law still provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Hawaii's law still needs significant improvement in several areas, including beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; exempting charter schools from collective bargaining agreements; and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Hawaii's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides both eligibility and access to students but not employees. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 136 |

IDAHO

Below is a general summary
of Idaho's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/ID](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/ID)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 22 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 141 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 48 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 20,449 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Idaho's score remained at 141 points. Its ranking went from #20 to #22.

Recommendations

- Idaho's law is mostly cap-free, provides multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability; however, it still provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Potential areas for improvement include enacting the model law's statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter public schools via multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter contract boards, creating authorizer accountability requirements, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Idaho's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified, although teachers may apply for a waiver or any of the limited alternative certification options provided by the state board of education. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 141 |

ILLINOIS

Below is a general summary
of Illinois' law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/IL](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/IL)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 32 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 129 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 148 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 62,429 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Illinois' score remained at 129 points. Its ranking went from #29 to #32.

Recommendations

- While Illinois' law provides an appellate process for charter public school applicants rejected by local school districts and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, it contains caps on charter school growth and provides inequitable funding to charters.
- Illinois' law needs major work in several areas—most significantly, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Illinois' Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations, requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters, and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 129 |

INDIANA

Below is a general summary
of Indiana's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/IN](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/IN)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 177 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2001 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 79 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 37,448 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- For the first time in the seven years that we have been ranking state charter laws, Indiana is ranked #1, moving up four spots from #5 last year. Indiana's score increased from 161 points to 177 points because of new policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required), Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes), Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards), Component #12 (Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures), and Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities).

Recommendations

- Indiana's law does not cap charter public school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. Indiana made notable strides in 2015 to provide more equitable funding to charter public schools, although some work remains to be done.
- The biggest area for improvement in Indiana's law is continuation of efforts to close the inequitable funding gap between charter public school students and their counterparts in traditional public schools.

Summary of Indiana's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 4 | 4 | 16 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others, and it requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 177 |

IOWA

Below is a general summary of Iowa's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/IA

| | |
|------|---|
| 41 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 63 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2002 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 3 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 322 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Iowa's score remained at 63 points. Its ranking stayed at #41.

Recommendations

- While Iowa's law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.
- Iowa's law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Iowa's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 1 | 4 | 4 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services but does not ensure state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 63 |

KANSAS

Below is a general summary
of Kansas' law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/KS](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/KS)

| | |
|-------|--|
| 42 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 60 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1994 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 11 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 2,677 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Kansas' score remained at 60 points. Its ranking stayed at #42.

Recommendations

- While Kansas' law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.
- Kansas' law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Kansas' Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 1 | 4 | 4 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 60 |

LOUISIANA

Below is a general summary of Louisiana's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/LA

| | |
|--------|---|
| 4 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 167 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 129 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 69,078 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Louisiana's score remained at 167 points. Its ranking went from #2 to #4.

Recommendations

- Louisiana's law does not cap charter public school growth, includes multiple authorizers, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides relatively equitable operational and categorical funding to charters; however, it does not provide equitable facilities funding to charters.
- One potential area for improvement is ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Louisiana's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows multicharter contract boards and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 167 |

MAINE

Below is a general summary of Maine's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/ME

| | |
|------|---|
| 6 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 163 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2011 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 6 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 857 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Maine's score remained at 163 points. Its ranking went from #3 to #6.

Recommendations

- Maine's law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality-control components, provides operational autonomy to charter public schools, and provides equitable operational funding to charter public schools. The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 10 state-authorized charter public schools during the initial 10 years that the law is in effect (there is no cap on the number of charters that local school districts can approve) and a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charters' facilities' needs.
- Potential areas for improvement in the law are lifting the state's cap on state-authorized charter public schools and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Maine's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for limited growth. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 4 | 4 | 16 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides access but not eligibility. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 163 |

MARYLAND

Below is a general summary of Maryland's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/MD

| | |
|--------|---|
| 43 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 49 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2003 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 53 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 20,800 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Maryland's score increased from 41 points to 49 points because of new policies for Component #12 (Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures), a change in the methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed), and a clarification about existing policy for Component #8 (Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes). Its ranking stayed at #43.

Recommendations

- While Maryland's law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.
- Maryland's law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Maryland's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 schools and 99 schools are authorized. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 0 | 4 | 0 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes none of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 49 |

MASSACHUSETTS

Below is a general summary of Massachusetts' law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/MA

| | |
|--------|--|
| 11 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 153 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1993 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 78 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 37,402 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Massachusetts's score increased from 147 point to 153 points because of further clarification about the policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required) and a change in the scoring methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking went from #17 to #11.

Recommendations

- Massachusetts' law provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools, but it contains a variety of caps on charter growth, includes only a single authorizing path, and provides inequitable funding.
- Potential areas for improvement include removing the state's caps on charter public school growth, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Massachusetts' Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for limited growth. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 schools and 99 schools are authorized. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 153 |

MICHIGAN

Below is a general summary of Michigan's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/MI

| | |
|---------|---|
| 21 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 143 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1993 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 307 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 138,949 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Michigan's score increased from 141 points to 143 points because of clarification about the policies for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking stayed at #21.

Recommendations

- Michigan's law contains caps on charter public schools that allow for ample growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of accountability; however, it provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding.
- Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Michigan's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows multischool charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 143 |

MINNESOTA

Below is a general summary of Minnesota's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/MN

| | |
|--------|---|
| 3 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 174 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1991 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 158 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 45,322 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Minnesota's score remained at 174 points. Its ranking went from #1 to #3. It is important to note that this drop was because of aggressive changes made in other states, not due to any steps backward in Minnesota.

Recommendations

- Minnesota's law does not cap charter public school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability; however, it also provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- The biggest area for improvement in Minnesota's law is ensuring equitable operational and categorical funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Minnesota's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows multischool charter contracts and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides access but not eligibility. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement system. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 174 |

MISSISSIPPI

Below is a general summary of Mississippi's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/MS

| | |
|------|--|
| 17 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 149 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2010 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 0 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 0 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Mississippi's score stayed at 149 points. Its ranking went from #15 to #17.

Recommendations

- Mississippi's law contains a cap with room for ample growth, includes a single statewide authorizing entity, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and includes strong operational and categorical funding.
- Potential areas of improvement in Mississippi's law include addressing open enrollment, clarifying teacher certification requirements, providing charter public school teachers with access to the state retirement system, providing applicants in all districts with direct access to the state authorizer, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Mississippi's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing path, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides eligibility but not access. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law does not provide access to the relevant employee retirement systems. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 149 |

MISSOURI

Below is a general summary of Missouri's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/MO

| | |
|--------|---|
| 30 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 132 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1998 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 51 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 19,737 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Missouri's score stayed at 132 points. Its ranking went from #27 to #30.

Recommendations

- Missouri's law is largely cap-free and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools; however, it includes multiple authorizing options in some districts, but not others, and provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Potential areas for improvement include beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes, providing multiple authorizing options in all districts, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Missouri's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 132 |

NEVADA

Below is a general summary
of Nevada's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/NV](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/NV)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 8 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 162 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1997 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 38 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 28,975 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Nevada's score increased from 150 points to 162 points because of new policies for Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes), Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed), and Component #15 (Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed). Its ranking went from #14 to #8.

Recommendations

- Nevada's law does not have a cap on charter public school growth and allows multiple authorizing entities. Over the past few years, Nevada has taken steps to improve its law by creating an independent state authorizer, strengthening accountability, and providing facilities support. Still, the law provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charter public schools.
- Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Nevada's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state law does not place any caps on charter school growth. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools but not public school conversions. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows a charter school to submit a written request to the state superintendent of public instruction for a waiver from providing the days of instruction required by state law and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 162 |

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Below is a general summary of New Hampshire's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/NH

| | |
|-------|---|
| 33 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 128 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 23 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 2,548 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- New Hampshire's score remained at 128 points. Its ranking went from #31 to #33.

Recommendations

- While New Hampshire's law contains a cap that allows for adequate growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools, the state's authorizing options (local school districts and the state board of education) have been unreliable and the law provides inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement in New Hampshire's charter public school law include providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of New Hampshire's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 128 |

NEW JERSEY

Below is a general summary of New Jersey's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/NJ

| | |
|--------|---|
| 36 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 118 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 87 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 37,259 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- New Jersey's score increased from 116 points to 118 points because of a change in the methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking went from #34 to #36.

Recommendations

- New Jersey's law does not contain caps on charter public school growth and provides a fair amount of accountability, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include expanding authorizer options for applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of New Jersey's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 schools and 99 schools are authorized. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows multischool charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 118 |

NEW MEXICO

Below is a general summary of New Mexico's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/NM

| | |
|--------|---|
| 16 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 150 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1993 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 97 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 22,715 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- New Mexico's score remained at 150 points. Its ranking went from #13 to #16.

Recommendations

- New Mexico's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of accountability but contains some caps on charter public school growth and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include beefing up statutory guidelines for relationships between charter public schools and educational service providers, increasing operational autonomy, and enacting the model law's statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools via multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter contract boards.

Summary of New Mexico's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools but not public school conversions. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10 percent. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 150 |

NEW YORK

Below is a general summary
of New York's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/NY](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/NY)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 162 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1998 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 248 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 106,483 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- New York's score increased from 157 points to 162 points because of new policies for Component #1 (No Caps) and a change in our methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking stayed at #7.

Recommendations

- New York's law has a cap on charter public schools that allows for ample growth, provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, but provides inequitable funding.
- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of New York's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides access but not eligibility. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 162 |

NORTH CAROLINA

Below is a general summary of North Carolina's law. For a detailed profile, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/NC

| | |
|--------|---|
| 14 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 152 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 151 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 70,079 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- North Carolina's score increased from 148 points to 152 points because of new policies for Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes). Its ranking went from #16 to #14.

Recommendations

- North Carolina's law does not cap charter public school growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inequitable funding.
- Potential areas of improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and providing adequate authorizer funding.

Summary of North Carolina's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows multicharter contract boards but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 152 |

OHIO

Below is a general summary of Ohio's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/OH

| | |
|---------|---|
| 23 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 140 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1997 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 384 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 123,844 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Ohio's score increased from 130 points to 140 points. It increased because of new policies for Component #5 (Adequate Authorizer Funding) and Component #8 (Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), and because of clarification regarding the policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required). It decreased because of a scoring error for Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions). Its ranking went from #28 to #23.

Recommendations

- While Ohio's law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides sufficient autonomy and accountability to charters, it allows only brick-and-mortar start-up charter public schools in about 10 percent of the state's school districts and provides inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas of improvement include removing all caps on charter public school growth; beefing up the law's requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Ohio's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards for some schools but not others. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides access but not eligibility. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 140 |

OKLAHOMA

Below is a general summary of Oklahoma's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/OK

| | |
|--------|---|
| 19 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 147 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1999 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 27 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 16,585 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Oklahoma's score increased from 112 points to 147 points because of new policies for Component #1 (No Caps), Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required), Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions), Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed), and Component #15 (Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed). Its ranking jumped from #36 to #19.

Recommendations

- Oklahoma's law contains caps on charter public schools that allow for ample growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools, and includes multiple authorizers; however, it provides inequitable funding to charters.
- The biggest area for improvement in Oklahoma's law is ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Oklahoma's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access for some charter students. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 147 |

OREGON

Below is a general summary of Oregon's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/OR

| | |
|--------|---|
| 28 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 133 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1999 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 125 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 29,791 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Oregon's score remained at 133 points. Its ranking went from #26 to #28.

Recommendations

- While Oregon's law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charters, it also includes limited authorizing options, insufficient accountability, and inadequate funding.
- Oregon's law needs significant work on ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. The law also needs to provide additional authorizing options for charter applicants and to strengthen accountability for schools and authorizers.

Summary of Oregon's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 133 |

PENNSYLVANIA

Below is a general summary of Pennsylvania's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/PA

| | |
|---------|---|
| 27 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 133 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1997 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 176 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 132,531 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Pennsylvania's score remained at 133 points. Its ranking went from #25 to #27.

Recommendations

- While Pennsylvania's law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charters, it primarily allows local school district authorizers and provides insufficient accountability and inadequate funding to charters.
- Pennsylvania's law needs improvement in several areas, including prohibiting district-mandated restrictions on growth, expanding authorizer options, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing authorizer funding, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), allowing multischool charter contracts or multicontract governing boards, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Pennsylvania's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state law does not place any caps on charter school growth, but some school districts have enacted restrictions on growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law prohibits these arrangements. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems, unless at the time of application it has a retirement program that covers the employee or the employee is currently enrolled in another retirement program. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 133 |

RHODE ISLAND

Below is a general summary of Rhode Island's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/RI

| | |
|-------|---|
| 35 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 118 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 21 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 6,433 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Rhode Island's score increased from 116 points to 118 points because of a change in the methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking went from #33 to #35.

Recommendations

- Rhode Island's law provides a fair amount of accountability but caps charter public school growth, allows only one authorizing option, and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Rhode Island's law is still in need of significant improvement, most notably by removing the remaining caps on charter public school growth, providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Rhode Island's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 118 |

SOUTH CAROLINA

Below is a general summary of South Carolina's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/SC

| | |
|--------|---|
| 13 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 152 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1996 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 66 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 27,191 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- South Carolina's score remained at 152 points. Its ranking went from #10 to #13.

Recommendations

- South Carolina law does not cap charter public school growth, provides multiple authorizing options to charter applicants, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools; however, it also provides inequitable funding to charters, especially around facilities, technology, and transportation.
- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable funding by increasing per-pupil funding, providing equitable access to capital funding, and ensuring access to vacant and underutilized facilities. South Carolina could also consider enacting the model law's statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools via multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter contract boards.

Summary of South Carolina's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing school district personnel policies but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools. | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 152 |

TENNESSEE

Below is a general summary of Tennessee's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/TN

| | |
|--------|---|
| 34 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 124 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 2002 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 80 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 22,565 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Tennessee's score increased from 120 points to 124 points because of new policies for Component #5 (Adequate Authorizer Funding) and a change in the methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking went from #32 to #34.

Recommendations

- While Tennessee's law does not cap charter public school growth, it primarily allows only local school district authorizers, affords insufficient autonomy and accountability, and provides inequitable funding.
- Tennessee's law needs improvement in several areas, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, creating additional authorizing options in all of the state's districts, providing adequate authorizer funding, ensuring authorizer accountability, and beefing up the requirements for performance-based contracts and charter school oversight.

Summary of Tennessee's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 124 |

TEXAS

Below is a general summary
of Texas' law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/TX](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/TX)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 25 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 137 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 721 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 264,606 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Texas' score remained at 137 points. Its ranking went from #22 to #25.

Recommendations

- Texas' law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state- versus district-authorized charter public schools. The requirements for state-authorized charter public schools are typically better than those for district-authorized charters. For example, the law's provisions for charter public school autonomy are much better for state-authorized charters. In fact, if our analysis focused on the provisions governing only state-authorized charters, Texas' law would be in our top 10; however, because our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charters, Texas is ranked #25.
- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Texas' Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards for some schools but not others. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | For state-authorized charters, the state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. For district-authorized charters, the state law provides automatic exemptions from many state laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified, but it does not provide automatic exemptions from many district laws and regulations. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing school district policies but not other schools. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law allows an independent charter public school board to oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 137 |

UTAH

Below is a general summary of Utah's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/UT

| | |
|--------|---|
| 20 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 145 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1998 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 110 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 61,435 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Utah's score remained at 145 points. Its ranking went from #18 to #20.

Recommendations

- Utah's law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides sufficient accountability to charters, but it contains a cap on charter public school growth and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include removing restrictions on charter public school growth, ensuring authorizing accountability, enacting the model law's statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, providing more operational autonomy to charter schools, and ensuring equitable operational funding.

Summary of Utah's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---------------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows multischool charter contracts for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law provides both eligibility and access to students but not employees. | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes some the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 145 |

VIRGINIA

Below is a general summary
of Virginia's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/VA](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/VA)

| | |
|-------|--|
| 39 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 80 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1998 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 7 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 2,263 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Virginia's score increased from 76 points to 80 points because of a change in the policies for Component #12 (Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures) and a change in the methodology for Component #2 (A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed). Its ranking went from #40 to #39.

Recommendations

- While Virginia's law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding.
- Virginia's law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Virginia's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 1 | 4 | 4 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies but provides an opportunity for exemptions. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 80 |

WISCONSIN

Below is a general summary
of Wisconsin's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

[www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/
law-database/states/WI](http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/WI)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 37 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 110 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1993 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 245 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 42,704 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Wisconsin's score increased from 79 points to 110 points because of new policies for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), Component #5 (Adequate Authorizer Funding), Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards), Component #12 (Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures), Component #15 (Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed), and Component #17 (Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities). Its ranking went from #38 to #37.

Recommendations

- Wisconsin's law now is largely cap free, allows multiple authorizing options in some districts, provides adequate autonomy for charters, but it provides inadequate accountability and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include providing multiple authorizing options in all districts, beefing up the law's application and renewal requirements, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Wisconsin's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others, and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 110 |

WYOMING

Below is a general summary of Wyoming's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/states/WY

| | |
|------|---|
| 38 | Rank (out of 43) |
| 87 | Total Points (out of 228) |
| 1995 | Year Charter School Law Was Enacted |
| 4 | Number of Charter Public Schools in 2014-15 |
| 459 | Number of Charter Public School Students in 2014-15 |

Changes in 2016

- Wyoming's score stayed at 87 points. Its ranking went from #37 to #38.

Recommendations

- While Wyoming's law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding.
- Wyoming's law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Wyoming's Law

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|---|--|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | No Caps | The state does not have a cap. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available | The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | 1 | 4 | 4 |

| | Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law | Current Component Description | Rating | Weight | Total Score |
|--------------|--|---|--------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter public school boards. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements. | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | 87 |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

In this appendix, we describe in more detail the methodology that we used for the state analyses at the heart of this rankings report. It is divided into the following subsections: **Weights, Rubric, and Changes.**

Weights

For our analysis of each state's charter school law against the National Alliance's model law, we first weighted each of the model law's 20 essential components with a weight from 1 to 4.

| Weights | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | |
|---------|--|---|
| 4 | 6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes |
| | 7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required |
| | 8 | Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes |
| | 9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions |
| | 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding |
| | 19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities |
| 3 | 1 | No Caps |
| | 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available |
| | 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required |
| | 11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards |
| | 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations |
| | 14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption |
| 2 | 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed |
| | 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding |
| | 10 | Educational Service Providers Allowed |
| | 12 | Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures |
| | 15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed |
| | 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities |
| | 20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems |
| 1 | 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

Rubric

After weighting each of the 20 components, we rated every state on the components on a scale of 0 to 4. We multiplied the rating and the weight to get a score for each component in each state. We then added up the scores for each of the 20 components and came up with an overall score for each state. The highest score possible is 228.

The table below shows how we defined the 0 to 4 ratings for each component. “Not applicable” signifies that we did not give that particular numeric rating for that component in any state.

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | No Caps , whereby: 1A. No limits are placed on the number of public charter schools or students (and no geographic limits). 1B. If caps exist, adequate room for growth. | The state has a cap with no room for growth. | The state has a cap with room for limited growth. | The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | The state has a cap with room for ample growth. OR The state does not have a cap but allows districts to restrict growth. Some districts have done so. | The state does not have a cap. |
| 2 | A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed , including: 2A. New start-ups. 2B. Public school conversions. 2C. Virtual schools. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. | The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools but not public school conversions. OR The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. | The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | Multiple Authorizers Available , including non-local school board authorizers, to which charter applicants may directly apply. | The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized. | The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 and 49 schools are authorized. | <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.</p> <p>(CONTINUED)</p> | <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized.</p> | The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|--|--------|---|---|---|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | <p>Multiple Authorizers Available, including:</p> <p>3A. The state allows two or more authorizing options (e.g., school districts and a state charter schools commission) for each applicant with direct application to each authorizer.</p> | | | <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 and 99 schools are authorized.</p> | | |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | <p>Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required, including:</p> <p>4A. At least a registration process for local school boards to affirm to the state their interest in chartering.</p> <p>4B. Application process for other eligible authorizing entities.</p> <p>4C. Authorizer submission of annual report, which summarizes the agency's authorizing activities as well as the performance of its school portfolio.</p> <p>4D. A regular review process by authorizer oversight body.</p> <p>4E. Authorizer oversight body with authority to sanction authorizers, including removal of authorizer right to approve schools.</p> <p>4F. Periodic formal evaluation of overall state charter school program and outcomes.</p> | The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. | The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | <p>Adequate Authorizer Funding, including:</p> <p>5A. Adequate funding from authorizing fees (or other sources).</p> <p>5B. Guaranteed funding from authorizing fees (or from sources not subject to annual legislative appropriations).</p> <p>5C. Requirement to publicly report detailed authorizer expenditures.</p> <p>5D. Separate contract for any services purchased from an authorizer by a school.</p> <p>5E. Prohibition on authorizers requiring schools to purchase services from them.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | <p>Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes, including:</p> <p>6A. Application elements for all schools.</p> <p>6B. Additional application elements specific to conversion schools.</p> <p>6C. Additional application elements specific to virtual schools.</p> <p>6D. Additional application elements specifically when using educational service providers.</p> <p>6E. Additional application elements specific to replications.</p> <p>6F. Authorizer-issued request for proposals (including application requirements and approval criteria).</p> <p>6G. Thorough evaluation of each application, including an in-person interview and a public meeting.</p> <p>6H. All charter approval or denial decisions made in a public meeting with authorizers stating reasons for denials in writing.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | <p>Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required, with such contracts:</p> <p>7A. Being created as a separate document from the application and executed by the governing board of the charter school and the authorizer.</p> <p>7B. Defining the roles, powers, and responsibilities for the school and its authorizer.</p> <p>7C. Defining academic and operational performance expectations by which the school will be judged, based on a performance framework that includes measures and metrics for, at a minimum, student academic proficiency and growth, achievement gaps, attendance, recurrent enrollment, postsecondary readiness (high schools), financial performance, and board stewardship (including compliance).</p> <p>7D. Providing an initial term of five operating years (or a longer term with periodic high-stakes reviews).</p> <p>7E. Including requirements addressing the unique environments of virtual schools, if applicable.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | <p>Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes, including:</p> <p>8A. The collection and analysis of student outcome data at least annually by authorizers (consistent with performance framework outlined in the contract).</p> <p>8B. Financial accountability for charter schools (e.g., generally accepted accounting principles, independent annual audit reported to authorizer).</p> <p>8C. Authorizer authority to conduct or require oversight activities.</p> <p>8D. Annual school performance reports produced and made public by each authorizer.</p> <p>8E. Authorizer notification to its schools of perceived problems, with opportunities to remedy such problems.</p> <p>8F. Authorizer authority to take appropriate corrective actions or exercise sanctions short of revocation.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 | <p>Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions, including:</p> <p>9A. Authorizer must issue school performance renewal reports to schools whose charter will expire the following year.</p> <p>9B. Schools seeking renewal must apply for it.</p> <p>9C. Authorizers must issue renewal application guidance that provides an opportunity for schools to augment their performance record and discuss improvements and future plans.</p> <p>9D. Authorizers must use clear criteria for renewal and nonrenewal/revocation.</p> <p>9E. Authorizers must ground renewal decisions based on evidence regarding the school's performance over the term of the charter contract (in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter contract).</p> <p>9F. Authorizer must have the authority to vary length of charter renewal contract terms based on performance or other issues.</p> <p>(CONTINUED)</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 | <p>9G. Authorizers must provide charter schools with timely notification of potential revocation or nonrenewal (including reasons) and reasonable time to respond.</p> <p>9H. Authorizers must provide charter schools with due process for nonrenewal and revocation decisions (e.g., public hearing, submission of evidence).</p> <p>9I. All charter renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions must be made in a public meeting, with authorizers stating reasons for nonrenewals and revocations in writing.</p> <p>9J. Authorizers must have school closure protocols to ensure timely parent notification, orderly student and record transitions, and property and asset disposition.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. | The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10 | <p>Educational Service Providers (ESPs) Allowed, including:</p> <p>10A. All types of educational service providers (both for-profit and non-profit) are explicitly allowed to operate all or parts of schools.</p> <p>10B. The charter application requires (1) performance data for all current and past schools operated by the ESP, including documentation of academic achievement and (if applicable) school management success; and (2) explanation and evidence of the ESP's capacity for successful growth while maintaining quality in existing schools.</p> <p>10C. A performance contract is required between the independent public charter school board and the ESP, setting forth material terms including but not limited to: performance evaluation measures, methods of contract oversight and enforcement by the charter school board, compensation structure and all fees to be paid to the ESP, and conditions for contract renewal and termination.</p> <p>(CONTINUED)</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for ESPs. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10 | <p>10D. The material terms of the ESP performance contract must be approved by the authorizer prior to charter approval.</p> <p>10E. School governing boards operate as entities completely independent of any ESP (e.g., must retain independent oversight authority of their charter schools and cannot give away their authority via contract).</p> <p>10F. Existing and potential conflicts of interest between the two entities are required to be disclosed and explained in the charter application.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for ESPs. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for ESPs. |
| 11 | <p>Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards, including:</p> <p>11A. Fiscally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to receive and disburse funds; incur debt; and pledge, assign, or encumber assets as collateral).</p> <p>11B. Legally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to enter into contracts and leases, sue and be sued in their own names, and acquire real property).</p> <p>11C. School governing boards created specifically to govern their charter schools.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 12 | <p>Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures, including:</p> <p>12A. Open enrollment to any student in the state.</p> <p>12B. Lottery requirements.</p> <p>12C. Required enrollment preferences for previously enrolled students within conversions, prior-year students within chartered schools, and siblings of enrolled students enrolled at a charter school.</p> <p>12D. Optional enrollment preference for children of a school's founders, governing board members, and full-time employees, not exceeding 10 percent of the school's total student population.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. | The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations , including: 13A. Exemptions from all laws, except those covering health, safety, civil rights, student accountability, employee criminal history checks, open meetings, freedom of information, and generally accepted accounting principles. 13B. Exemption from state teacher certification requirements. | The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from state and district laws and regulations, does not allow schools to apply for exemptions, and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. | The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. OR The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. OR The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | There were six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in this cell. ³ | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. | The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. |

³ The six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in 2 for #13 are: (1) The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations, and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. (2) The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations, requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters, and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters. (3) The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. (4) The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements. (5) The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools, but not others, and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions. (6) The state law provides some flexibility from state and district laws and regulations for some schools, but less for others, and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 14 | <p>Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption, whereby:</p> <p>14A. Charter schools authorized by nonlocal board authorizers are exempt from participation in any outside collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>14B. Charter schools authorized by local boards are exempt from participation in any district collective bargaining agreements.</p> | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions. | <p>The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law requires all charter school staff to be employees of the local school district but exempts the staff from state education employment laws.</p> | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools. | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. |
| 15 | <p>Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed, whereby an independent public charter school board may:</p> <p>15A. Oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.</p> <p>15B. Hold multiple charter contracts with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.</p> | The state law prohibits these arrangements. | The state law is silent regarding these arrangements. | <p>The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools.</p> | <p>The state law allows either of these arrangements but requires only schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law allows either of these arrangements for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> | The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 16 | <p>Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access, whereby:</p> <p>16A. Laws or regulations explicitly state that charter school students and employees are eligible to participate in all interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, and recognition programs available to noncharter public school students and employees.</p> <p>16B. Laws or regulations explicitly allow charter school students in schools not providing extracurricular and interscholastic activities to have access to those activities at noncharter public schools for a fee by a mutual agreement.</p> | The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access for some or all charter students. | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | The state law provides either eligibility or access (but not both) for some types of charters (but not all). | <p>The state law provides both eligibility and access to students but not employees.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law provides either eligibility or access but not both.</p> | The state law provides both eligibility and access. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities, including: 17A. Clarity regarding which entity is the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing special education services. 17B. Clarity regarding funding for low-incident, high-cost services for charter schools (in the same amount and/or in a manner similar to other LEAs). | The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services. | The state law is clear on either responsibility for providing services OR funding for low-incident, high-cost services but not both. | Not applicable | The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services. |
| 18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding, including: 18A. Equitable operational funding statutorily driven. 18B. Equal access to all applicable categorical federal and state funding and clear guidance on the pass-through of such funds. 18C. Funding for transportation similar to school districts. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30.0 percent. OR The state law includes a small number or none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20.0 percent and 29.9 percent. OR The state law includes some or many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students. | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10.0 percent and 19.9 percent. | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10.0 percent. | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates no equity gap between district and charter students. |

Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 19 | <p>Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities, including:</p> <p>19A. A per-pupil facilities allowance that annually reflects actual average district capital costs.</p> <p>19B. A state grant program for charter school facilities.</p> <p>19C. A state loan program for charter school facilities.</p> <p>19D. Equal access to tax-exempt bonding authorities or allowing charter schools to have their own bonding authority.</p> <p>19E. A mechanism to provide credit enhancement for public charter school facilities.</p> <p>19F. Equal access to existing state facilities programs available to noncharter public schools.</p> <p>19G. Right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market value a closed, unused, or underused public school facility or property.</p> <p>19H. Prohibition of facility-related requirements stricter than those applied to traditional public schools.</p> | The state law includes none of the model law's facilities provisions. | The state law includes a small number of the model law's facilities provisions. | The state law provides some state funding for leasing or purchasing buildings and assistance with borrowing funds, equal access to district surplus buildings, or equal access to existing state facilities programs available to noncharter public schools. | The state law provides some state funding for leasing and purchasing buildings, assistance with borrowing funds, and equal access to district surplus buildings or existing state facilities programs available to noncharter public schools. | The state law provides equitable state funding dedicated for leasing and purchasing buildings, assistance with borrowing funds, and equal access to district surplus buildings and existing state facilities programs available to noncharter public schools. |

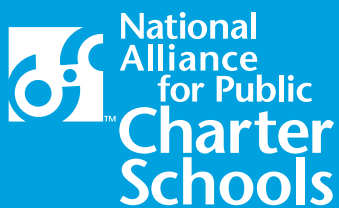
Appendix A: Methodological Details

| | Essential Components of a Strong Charter Public School Law | Rating | | | | |
|----|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 20 | <p>Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems, whereby:</p> <p>20A. Charter schools have access to relevant state retirement systems available to other public schools.</p> <p>20B. Charter schools have the option to participate (i.e., not required).</p> | The state law does not provide access to the relevant employee retirement systems. | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools. | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. | The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools. | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. |

Changes

For this edition of the report, we modified our approach to one of the 20 essential components: #2: A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed. See below for a direct comparison of the previous rubric and the new rubric.

| Old Rubric | New Rubric |
|--|--|
| 2) A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed, including: 2A. New start-ups. 2B. Public school conversions. 2C. Virtual schools. | 2) A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed, including: 2A. New start-ups. 2B. Public school conversions. 2C. Virtual schools. |
| 0: The state allows only public school conversions. | 0: Not applicable. |
| 1: Not applicable. | 1: Not applicable. |
| 2: The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. OR The state allows only new start-ups. | 2: Not applicable. |
| 3: The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools but not public school conversions. | 3: The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools but not public school conversions. OR The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools. |
| 4: The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. | 4: The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools. |



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Our mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement for all students by fostering a strong charter school movement.