



# The Health of the Charter Public School Movement: A State-by-State Analysis

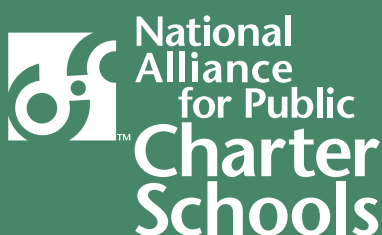
# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	Introduction
<b>3</b>	Methodological Overview
<b>5</b>	The 2016 Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings
<b>10</b>	43 State Profiles
<b>174</b>	Appendix A: Rubric
<b>176</b>	Appendix B: Data Sources

## Acknowledgments

Todd Ziebarth, senior vice president, state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (National Alliance), and Louann Bierlein Palmer, professor of educational leadership and policy at Western Michigan University (WMU), wrote this report. Extensive data compilation was provided by Susan Aud Pendergrass, senior director, research and evaluation at the National Alliance; Wentana Gebru, manager, research and evaluation at the National Alliance; Rebecca David, research assistant at the National Alliance; Russ Simnick, senior director, state advocacy and support at the National Alliance; Emily Schultz, senior manager, state advocacy and support at the National Alliance; Jenn Hatfield, research assistant at the American Enterprise Institute; Kathy Wilson, doctoral student in evaluation, measurement, and research at WMU; and Public Impact.

Ziebarth and Bierlein Palmer compiled and shared data and other information with those working at state charter public school associations, charter public school resource centers, and other organizations. The National Alliance acknowledges and thanks such individuals for their invaluable feedback. Any errors and omissions in this report are the responsibility of the authors, not the individuals from the states.



# Introduction

Since the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (National Alliance) released the first edition of *The Health of the Public Charter School Movement: A State-by-State Analysis* in October 2014, we have received both encouraging words for releasing the report and constructive criticism for how we can improve it going forward. The second edition of this report builds on the solid foundation of the inaugural version, while making adjustments to account for some of the helpful feedback that we received.

As a reminder, the purpose of this report is to evaluate the health of each state's charter public school movement, as a companion to our annual evaluation of the strength of each state's charter public school law. One potentially helpful way to understand the difference between the two reports is to think of one as focused on inputs (law rankings) and the other as focused on outputs (health-of-the-movement rankings).

Through these two reports, we hope to shine a light on those states that are creating supportive policy environments as well as those states that are creating healthy movements. We also aim to provide information via these reports on where states can strengthen both their laws and their implementation of those laws moving forward.

In this report, we provide data about the health of the charter public school movement along 13 indicators of growth, innovation, and quality. Three notable changes in this year's report make comparisons between it and last year's report challenging. **First, we changed the criteria that states had to meet in order to be scored and ranked.** In last year's report, a state had to meet two criteria: Its charter school movement served at least 1 percent of its public school students in 2013-14 and it participated in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO's) *National Charter School Study 2013*.<sup>1</sup> A total of 26 states met these criteria.

In this year's report, a state had to meet three criteria: Its charter school movement served at least 2 percent of its public school students in 2014-15, it participated in CREDO's *National*

*Charter School Study 2013*, and it had a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. A total of 18 states met these criteria.

**Second, this report contains four quality indicators—two more than the previous year's report.** The two quality indicators used in the first edition of the report were drawn from CREDO's *National Charter Schools Study 2013*, which remains the only source of student outcome data across a large number of states that allows a meaningful and fair comparison of similar students within charter public and traditional public schools. But the most recent available CREDO data are from 2010-11.

To mitigate this problem, we added two new quality indicators drawn from state accountability systems. Our goal with these indicators is to ascertain if state charter school movements are improving over time through two avenues: (1) increasing the percentage of charters receiving the top ratings in state accountability systems; and (2) decreasing the percentage of charters receiving the bottom ratings. Given the ever-changing nature of state accountability systems, it is not surprising that only 18 states are included in this year's report. To further address this problem in the long term, the National Alliance is developing its own model to assess charter public school performance on state tests. We hope this model will allow us to include a broader number of states in the next edition of this report.

# Introduction

---

**The third and final notable change is how we address innovation in this report.** As we stated in last year's report, innovation is one of the foundational values of the charter public school movement. However, one can define "innovation" in any number of ways. Furthermore, no matter how "innovation" is defined, finding comparable, cross-state data about its existence in charter public schools is challenging. While all options were imperfect, we decided in last year's report to use data from a spring 2012 survey of charter public schools that asked school leaders about a variety of issues, including educational focus and instructional delivery at their schools.<sup>2</sup>

For this year's report, building off the American Enterprise Institute's *Measuring Diversity in Charter School Offerings*, we categorized each charter school via one or more of 13 potential special focuses (e.g., no excuses, purposely diverse, public policy, and citizenship). With this approach we intended to determine whether a variety of types of charter public schools are being created in states to meet a diverse set of student needs. We will continue to explore ways to measure innovation across states for future editions of this report.

As in last year's report, this year's edition not only shares what we found for each state but also compares our existing law rankings with these health-of-the-movement rankings. For the most part, those states with higher-ranked charter public school laws also fared well in our health-of-the-movement rankings. However, a small number of states with higher-ranked charter public school laws did not fare as well in our health-of-the-movement rankings. We speculate that this disconnect is largely due to the time lag between the states' policy changes and the impact of those changes on authorizers and schools (all of these states have made major policy improvements to address shortcomings).

Also, a small number of states had lower-ranked charter public school laws but fared well in our health-of-the-movement rankings. These states have been able to achieve these results in spite of weak laws largely through a combination of a small number of authorizers implementing solid practices that are not required by their states' charter public school laws and a select number of high-performing charter public schools smartly replicating and expanding.

Last, we acknowledge that our definition of a healthy movement is limited by what data we can collect across states. Several other elements of a healthy movement are not included here because we cannot measure them. But that doesn't mean they are not important. For example, quality beyond test scores can be determined several ways, some of which are more qualitative in nature. A healthy movement needs to have charter schools that are not only succeeding on state tests but also knocking it out of the park on these other determinants of quality.

Overall, there is much to celebrate about the health of the charter public school movement. However, continued efforts to strengthen the movement are essential, even in those states where the current movement is relatively healthy. We hope this report aids charter public school supporters across the country as they engage in this critical work.

## NINA REES

*President and CEO*

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools*

## TODD ZIEBARTH

*Senior Vice President of State Advocacy and Support*

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools*

---

1 Center for Research on Education Outcomes, *National Charter School Study 2013* (Stanford, CA: Author, 2013).

2 National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, *Instructional Delivery and Focus of Public Charter Schools: Results from the NAPCS National Charter School Survey, School Year 2011-12* (Washington, DC, Author, June 2013).

# Methodological Overview

To assess the health of the charter public school movement across the country, we developed a list of indicators for which we collected data. These indicators fall into the broad categories of growth, innovation, and quality. Table 1 lists the indicators by category.

**TABLE 1: Indicators Used to Assess the Health of the Charter Public School Movement**

<b>GROWTH</b>
1. Public school share
2. Public school student share
3. Students by race and ethnicity
4. Students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English learner status)
5. Schools by geographic distribution
6. Communities with more than 10 percent of students in charter public schools
7. New charter public schools opened over the past five years
8. Charter public schools closed over the past five years
<b>INNOVATION</b>
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus
<b>QUALITY</b>
10. Additional days of learning in reading
11. Additional days of learning in math
12. Percentage point change within top categories in state accountability system
13. Percentage point change within bottom categories in state accountability system

In addition to gathering the data for each of the above indicators, we created a rubric to use in our assessment of these data for each state. Perhaps most notably, this effort involved creating value statements and weights for each indicator. These value statements and weights were developed

with significant input from a wide variety of charter public school stakeholders. The indicators are weighted from 1 to 4, with 1 being the lowest weight and 4 being the highest weight. Table 2 provides an overview of the value statements and weights for each indicator.

# Methodological Overview

**TABLE 2: Value Statements and Weights**

Indicator	Value Statement	Weight
1. Public school share	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the percentage, the better.	3
2. Public school student share	To ensure that a wide variety of student needs are being met, the higher the percentage, the better.	3
3. Students by race and ethnicity	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., racial minorities) than traditional public schools.	2
4. Students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English learner status)	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch students, special education students, and English learner students) than traditional public schools.	2
5. Schools by geographic distribution	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., nonsuburban) than traditional public schools.	2
6. Communities with more than 10 percent of students in charter public schools	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the number of communities, the better.	1
7. New charter public schools opened over the past five years	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the growth rate, the better.	3
8. Charter public schools closed over the past five years	It is preferable to have a small and consistent percentage of schools close, but the percentage should not be too high, as such a number reveals inadequate approval and oversight processes.	3
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the percentage, the better.	2
10. Additional days of learning in reading	It is preferable for charter public school students to have outcomes greater than traditional public school students.	3
11. Additional days of learning in math	It is preferable for charter public school students to have outcomes greater than traditional public school students.	3
12. Percentage point change within top categories in state accountability system	It is preferable for the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top categories to increase.	3
13. Percentage point change within bottom categories in state accountability system	It is preferable for the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom categories to decrease.	3

After weighting each indicator, we rated each of them on a scale of 0 to 4 for 18 of the 43 jurisdictions with charter public school laws (see Appendix A for more details). These 18 states were selected because their movements served at least 2 percent of their public school students in 2014-15, they participated in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' *National Charter School Study 2013*, and they had a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. We then multiplied the rating by the weight for each indicator and added them up to get a total score for each state. The highest possible score is 132.

We acknowledge that the indicators, value statements, weights, and ratings can be (and, in fact, were and will continue to be) heavily

debated. We will continue to monitor data on these indicators and make necessary adjustments to them and their accompanying value statements, weights, and ratings going forward.

In addition to assessing states on these 13 indicators, we also felt it was important to provide data for each state on three other indicators:

- Percentage of start-up charter public schools versus conversion charter public schools;
- Information about charter authorizers; and
- Information about virtual charter public schools and the students who attend them.

These additional data help shed further light on the dynamics within a state's movement but are not considered in the scoring.



# The 2016 Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings

Table 3 presents the 2016 health of the charter public school movement rankings. As a reminder, we focused on states that met three criteria: Their charter school movement served at least 2 percent of their public school students in 2014, they participated in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO's) *National Charter School Study 2013*, and they had a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14.<sup>3</sup>

**TABLE 3: 2016 Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings<sup>4</sup>**

Ranking	State	Score (132 Possible Points)
1	D.C.	106
2	Indiana	88
3	Michigan	85
4	Massachusetts	82
5	Louisiana	78
6	Florida	77
7	Arizona	77
8	Rhode Island	71
9	Colorado	69
10	Missouri	68
11	Texas	68
12	Nevada	65
13	Ohio	64
14	Georgia	58
15	Pennsylvania	54
16	New Mexico	48
17	Utah	48
18	Oregon	45

## THE TWO ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM: D.C. VERSUS OREGON

At the top of the rankings is **D.C.'s** charter public school movement. D.C.'s movement landed at the top spot because it scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 50 percent of D.C.'s public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 44 percent of D.C.'s public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, D.C.'s charter public schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (8 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 24 charter public schools closed in D.C., a 4.5 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 55 percent of the state's charter public schools were special focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (72 more days in reading and 101 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

# The 2016 Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings

---

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom category of the D.C. Public Charter School Board's accountability system decreased by 4 percentage points (from 12 percent to 8 percent).

On the flip side, the state at the bottom of the list is **Oregon**. Oregon landed near the bottom because it fared relatively poorly on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- During 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (14 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Oregon served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (28 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, only one community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (22 days less in reading and 50 days less in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

## HEALTH OF THE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL MOVEMENT RANKINGS VERSUS STATE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

In addition to ranking the health of the charter public school movements across the country, we also wanted to know how these rankings compared with our most recent rankings of state charter public school laws. Table 4 reveals that comparison. States that are green had high-strength laws, states that are yellow had medium-strength laws, and states that are orange had low-strength laws.

---

3 Center for Research on Education Outcomes, *National Charter School Study 2013* (Stanford, CA: Author, 2013).

4 In the case of a tie, we first looked at each state's performance for reading gains in CREDO's 2013 *National Charter Schools Study*. Whichever state had the highest performance was ranked higher. If the states had the same performance, we looked at each state's performance for math gains in CREDO's 2013 *National Charter Schools Study*. Whichever state had the highest performance was ranked higher.



# The 2016 Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings

**TABLE 4: Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings versus State Charter Public School Law Rankings**

State	Health of the Charter Public School Movement Ranking (out of 18)	Total Points (out of 132)	State Charter Public School Law Ranking (out of 43)	Total Points (out of 228)
D.C.	1	106	12	153
Indiana	2	88	1	177
Michigan	3	85	21	143
Massachusetts	4	82	11	153
Louisiana	5	78	4	167
Florida	6	77	9	156
Arizona	7	77	10	154
Rhode Island	8	71	35	118
Colorado	9	69	5	165
Missouri	10	68	30	132
Texas	11	68	25	137
Nevada	12	65	8	162
Ohio	13	64	23	140
Georgia	14	58	18	147
Pennsylvania	15	54	27	133
New Mexico	16	48	16	150
Utah	17	48	20	145
Oregon	18	45	28	133
States That Did Not Receive a Health of the Charter Public School Movement Ranking				
Alabama	Not ranked		2	175
Minnesota	Not ranked		3	174
Maine	Not ranked		6	163
New York	Not ranked		7	162
South Carolina	Not ranked		13	152
North Carolina	Not ranked		14	152
California	Not ranked		15	152
Mississippi	Not ranked		17	149
Oklahoma	Not ranked		19	147
Idaho	Not ranked		22	141
Delaware	Not ranked		24	138
Hawaii	Not ranked		26	136
Arkansas	Not ranked		29	132
Connecticut	Not ranked		31	129
Illinois	Not ranked		32	129
New Hampshire	Not ranked		33	128
Tennessee	Not ranked		34	124
New Jersey	Not ranked		36	118
Wisconsin	Not ranked		37	110
Wyoming	Not ranked		38	87
Virginia	Not ranked		39	80
Alaska	Not ranked		40	78
Iowa	Not ranked		41	63
Kansas	Not ranked		42	60
Maryland	Not ranked		43	49

# The 2016 Health of the Charter Public School Movement Rankings

---

In summary, many of the states with high-strength laws (those in green) landed within the top level of the health-of-the-movement rankings, many of those states with medium-strength laws (those in yellow) landed within the middle of the health-of-the-movement rankings, and all of the states with low-strength laws (those in orange) were not ranked.

Beyond this broad summary, here are three big takeaways from the comparison of the health-of-the-movement rankings and the law rankings.

**First, supportive laws are necessary but not sufficient.** To quote from our model law:

*It is important to note that a strong charter law is a necessary but insufficient factor in driving positive results for charter public schools. Experience with charter public schools across the country has shown that there are five primary ingredients of a successful public charter school environment in a state, as demonstrated by strong student results:*

- *Supportive laws and regulations (both what is on the books and how it is implemented);*
- *Quality authorizers;*
- *Effective charter support organizations, such as state charter associations and resource centers;*
- *Outstanding school leaders and teachers; and*
- *Engaged parents and community members.*

*While it is critical to get the law right, it is equally critical to ensure these additional ingredients exist in a state's charter school movement.*

Some states with supportive laws (those that rank high in our annual law rankings) have implemented them well—and have therefore achieved strong results. Conversely, other states with supportive laws have implemented them inconsistently—and have therefore achieved uneven results.

**Second, there are exceptions to the rule.**

Some states' charter movements have achieved strong results in spite of lower-ranked laws—confirming that there are always exceptions to the rule. However, these charter school movements are relatively small in size.

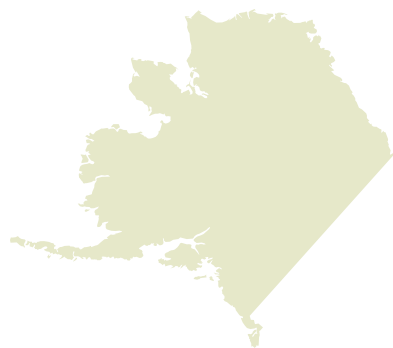
How do they do it? It is usually through a combination of authorizers implementing solid practices that are not required by their state laws (but are part of our model law) and high-performing charter public schools smartly replicating and expanding. This seems to happen in low-ranked states with only one or two authorizers, like Rhode Island.

**Third, it takes time for supportive laws to move the needle in states that have experienced challenges.**

Some states that rank high in our law rankings ended up there because they passed legislation to address some of the challenges that had emerged in their charter public school movements. These bills were relatively aligned with our model law. Because of the time lag between when these policy changes happen and when they begin to affect student results, we sometimes see states that are ranked high in the law rankings but are not yet achieving consistently strong results in the health-of-the-movement rankings (e.g., Nevada and New Mexico).



# Alaska



Alaska enacted its charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #40 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school districts to authorize charter public schools and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO's) *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state needed to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Alaska's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 27 charter public schools and 6,224 charter public school students in Alaska, constituting 5 percent of the state's public schools and 5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, on average, the state's charter public schools served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (15 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (28 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 89 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 98 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, two new charter public schools opened in Alaska. The average annual open rate in the state was 1.5 percent.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, one charter public school closed in Alaska, an average annual closure rate of 0.7 percent.
- In 2012-13, 30 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 8 percentage points (from 70 percent to 78 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system stayed the same (4 percent).
- In 2014-15, 93 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 7 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, only local school districts were allowed to authorize charter public schools in the state. Eight of them had done so as of that year.
- In 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Alaska.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			27
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			5
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			6,224
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			5
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	64	49	15
		Black	2	3	-1
		Hispanic	5	7	-2
		Asian	3	6	-3
		Other	26	35	-9
		Total minority	36	51	-15
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	16	44	-28
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	16	44	-28
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	30	18	12
		Suburb	11	2	9
		Town	44	17	27
		Rural	15	63	-48
		Total nonsuburban	89	98	-9
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	2	Average annual open rate		1.5%
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	2014-15	0			
	Total number	2			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		0.7%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	1			



Indicator	Year	Data						
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			0			
		STEM			0			
		Arts			0			
		Classical			0			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			11%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			19%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			0			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			0			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			30%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	–						
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	–						
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference			
		5 stars	41	39	-2			
		4 stars	29	39	10			
		Total	70	78	8			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference			
		2 stars	4	4	0			
		1 stars	0	0	0			
		Total	4	4	0			
Totals		Grand Total Points					Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state’s charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state’s charter schools that are start-ups			93		Percentage of a state’s charter public schools that are conversions	7
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state’s charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	8	27	3	100		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0			
		Percentage of a state’s charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0			
		Number of virtual charter schools			0			
		Percentage of a state’s charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0			

# Arizona

## RANKING:

# #7

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 77

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Arizona enacted its charter public school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #10 out of 43. Arizona's law does not cap charter growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy to its charter public schools. Over the past few years, Arizona has also taken steps to strengthen the accountability provisions in its law. However, the law still provides inequitable funding to public charter students by barring their access to significant buckets of funding.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Arizona's charter public school movement ranked #7 out of 18, scoring 77 points out of 132.

Arizona scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 28 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 17 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2014-15, 17 communities had more than 10 percent of public school students in public charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 215 public charters opened, a 6.9 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 96 charter public schools closed, a 3.2 percent average annual closure rate.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 5 percentage points (from 57 percent to 62 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 8 percentage points (from 19 percent to 11 percent).

Arizona scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, charter public schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (9 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Arizona served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (12 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.<sup>1</sup>
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth, on average (22 fewer days in reading and 29 fewer days in math), when compared with traditional public school students.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Arizona:

- In 2012-13, 79 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 77 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 36 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- During 2012-13, 87 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 13 percent were conversions.
- Arizona law allows charter applicants to apply to a local school board, the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS), the state board of education, a university, a community college district, or a group of community college districts. However, the state board of education has a self-imposed moratorium on charter authorizing, so ASBCS currently oversees all schools approved by both state boards, which means that ASBCS oversaw 88 percent of the state's public charters in 2014-15. Also, 24 local school districts oversaw 11 percent of the state's public charters, and one university oversaw 1 percent of the state's public charters that year.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2013-14, two full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Arizona, serving 1,661 students (.01 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Arizona has a relatively good charter law, but it still provides inequitable funding to public charter students by barring their access to significant buckets of funding.
- A relatively high percentage of Arizona's public schools and students are charter schools and students, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
- Although Arizona's charters currently serve a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, in 2013, the Arizona Charter Schools Association launched New Schools for Phoenix to increase the number of charters serving these students. The goal of this organization is to open, replicate, or reform 25 A-rated schools, enrolling 12,500 low-income students in Phoenix by 2020, and to recruit and equip highly motivated educators to fuel student success in urban education.

- While Arizona's charters did not perform as well as their peers in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*, the most recent data within that report are from 2010-11. Since that time, Arizona charter school supporters, led by the Arizona Charter Schools Association, have implemented several efforts to improve achievement. Taken together, these changes will better promote the growth of high-quality charters and the closure of chronically low-performing charters. In fact, more current data than the CREDO study show that the percentage of charters in the top two categories of the state's accountability system is increasing, while the percentage of charters in the bottom category of the state's accountability system is decreasing.

<sup>1</sup> According to research conducted by the Arizona Charter Schools Association, only 46 percent of charter schools provided free and reduced-price lunch data in 2014. This number illustrates the challenges in determining the level of poverty in charter public schools.

<sup>2</sup> As of 2014, new charter public school applicants cannot apply to local school boards.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			623	4	3	12
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			28			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			190,000	4	3	12
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			17			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	1	2	2
		White	48	39	9			
		Black	6	5	1			
		Hispanic	36	46	-10			
		Asian	4	2	2			
		Other	6	8	-2			
		Total minority	52	61	-9			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	40	52	-12	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	40	52	-12			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	58	43	15	2	2	4
		Suburb	21	23	-2			
		Town	10	15	-5			
		Rural	11	19	-8			
		Total nonsuburban	79	77	2			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	17				4	1	4
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	21	Average annual open rate		6.9%	2	3	6
	2011-12	47						
	2012-13	29						
	2013-14	87						
	2014-15	31						
	Total number	215						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	20	Average annual closure rate		3.2%	4	3	12
	2010-11	21						
	2011-12	26						
	2012-13	16						
	2013-14	13						
	Total number	96						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			1%	2	2	4
		STEM			3%			
		Arts			3%			
		Classical			4%			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			0.2%			
		International/Foreign language			1%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			10%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			11%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			3%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0.2%			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			36%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-22				0	3	0
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	3	3	9
		A	30	34	4			
		B	27	28	1			
		Total	57	62	5			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	4	3	12
		D	18	8	-10			
		F	1	3	2			
		Total	19	11	-8			
Totals		Grand Total Points			77	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			89	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		11
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	24	71	3	11		
		SEAs	1	41	41	7		
		ICBs	1	506	506	81		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	1	5	5	1		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			1,661			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0.01			
		Number of virtual charter schools			2			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0.003			

# Arkansas



Arkansas enacted its charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #29 out of 43. While the state law has a cap on charter 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.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Arkansas' movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (15 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (2 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 80 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 89 percent of traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, only two communities in the state had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 27 charter public schools opened in Arkansas, a 12 percent average annual open rate.



- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 11 charter public schools closed in Arkansas, a 5.6 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 64 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (22 fewer days in reading and 22 fewer days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- In 2014-15, 58 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 42 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, Arkansas allowed only its state department of education to serve as an authorizer, so 100 percent of the state's 45 schools were authorized by the state department of education that year.
- In 2013-14, one full-time virtual charter public school operated in Arkansas, educating 1,334 students (8 percent of the state's charter public school population).

# Arkansas

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			45
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			4
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			19,179
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			4
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	49	64	-15
		Black	39	20	19
		Hispanic	8	12	-4
		Asian	2	1	1
		Other	2	3	-1
		Total minority	51	36	15
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	59	61	-2
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	59	61	-2
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	42	21	21
		Suburb	20	11	9
		Town	22	22	0
		Rural	16	46	-30
		Total nonsuburban	79	89	-10
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	2			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	4	Average annual open rate		12.0%
	2011-12	4			
	2012-13	4			
	2013-14	9			
	2014-15	6			
	Total number	27			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	3	Average annual closure rate		5.6%
	2010-11	3			
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	2			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	11			

Indicator	Year	Data					
Innovation Indicators							
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		18%			
		STEM		26%			
		Arts		15%			
		Classical		0			
		Purposely diverse		0			
		Single sex		0			
		International/Foreign language		0			
		Montessori/Waldorf		0			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		3%			
		Military		0			
		Vocational training		3%			
		Public policy/Citizenship		0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		64%			
Quality Indicators							
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11				-22		
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11				-22		
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14				-		
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14				-		
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored							
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	58	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions			42
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer	
		LEAs	-	-	-	-	
		SEAs	1	45	45	100	
		ICBs	-	-	-	0	
		NEGs	-	-	-	0	
		HEIs	-	-	-	0	
		NFPs	-	-	-	0	
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			1,334		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			8		
		Number of virtual charter schools			1		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3		

# California



California enacted its charter public school law in 1992. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, California's law ranked #15 out of 43. Highlights from the law include the following:

- While the state law has a cap on charter school growth, it is structured in a way that allows ample growth.
- Although the state law requires charter school applicants to initially submit their proposals to local school districts (in most cases), the state law provides a robust appellate process.
- The state law provides a fair amount of autonomy to charters but lacks some aspects of accountability (such as requiring performance-based contracts between charter public schools and authorizers).
- The state has made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charters, although some work still remains.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools.

Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. California's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 12 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2013-14, 9 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (7 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools. While charters served a higher proportion of black students (3 percentage points more), they served lower proportions of Hispanic and Asian students (6 percentage points less for Hispanics and 5 percentage points less for Asians).
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served smaller percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students (3 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.

- In 2012-13, 71 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 59 percent of traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, 34 communities had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 521 public charters opened in California, an 8.8 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 151 charter public schools closed in California, a 2.7 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 33 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (22 additional days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited less academic growth in math (seven fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- During 2014-15, 83 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups and 17 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 324 local and county school boards had authorized 1,157 charter public schools (98 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools) and the state board of education had authorized 23 charter public schools (2 percent).
- In 2013-14, 32 full-time virtual charter public schools operated in California, serving 21,161 students (4 percent of the state's charter public school population).

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			1,184
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			12
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			544,980
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			9
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	31	24	7
		Black	9	6	3
		Hispanic	48	54	-6
		Asian	7	12	-5
		Other	5	4	1
		Total minority	69	76	-7
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	55	58	-3
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	55	58	-3
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	54	37	17
		Suburb	29	41	-12
		Town	7	9	-2
		Rural	10	12	-2
		Total nonsuburban	79	59	20
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	34			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	114	Average annual open rate		8.8%
	2011-12	102			
	2012-13	108			
	2013-14	109			
	2014-15	88			
	Total number	521			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	15	Average annual closure rate		2.7%
	2010-11	28			
	2011-12	29			
	2012-13	43			
	2013-14	36			
	Total number	151			



Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2012-13	No Excuses		5%		
		STEM		5%		
		Arts		4%		
		Classical		2%		
		Purposely diverse		0.4%		
		Single sex		0.3%		
		International/Foreign language		4%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		12%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		2%		
		Military		1%		
		Vocational training		2%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0.3%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		33%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	22				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		83	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	324	1,157	4	98
		SEAs	1	23	23	2
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			21,161	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			4	
		Number of virtual charter schools			32	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3	

# Colorado

## RANKING:

# #9

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 69

POINTS  
(out of 132)

## Law Summary

Colorado enacted its charter public school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #5 out of 43. Colorado does not cap charter 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 charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Colorado's charter school movement ranked #9 out of 18, scoring 69 points out of 132.

Colorado scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 12 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 11 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2014-15, 13 communities in Colorado had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (seven additional days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

Colorado scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served lower percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students (8 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in math (seven fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Colorado:

- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served an identical percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 68 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 70 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 69 public charters opened in Colorado, a 6.4 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 14 charter public schools closed in Colorado, a 1.4 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 39 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 88 percent to 90 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 2 percentage points (from 12 percent to 10 percent).
- During 2014-15, 96 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 4 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 45 local school boards had authorized 180 charter public schools (84 percent of the state's total number of public charters) and the state's independent charter board had authorized 34 charter public schools (16 percent).
- In 2013-14, eight full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Colorado, serving 9,895 students (10 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Colorado has a relatively good charter law, but it still needs to provide more equitable funding to charter students.
- In Colorado, a relatively high percentage of the state's public schools and students are charter schools and students, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
- While Colorado's charters serve a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, many charter schools face challenges when it comes to accessing adequate educational facilities space, including the lack of full-service kitchens that allow a charter school to receive federal funding for free and reduced-price meals. The lack of such accessible space can lead to a reduction in the number of free and reduced-price lunch students attending charters or in the number of charter schools participating in the free and reduced-price lunch program (although they may still serve students eligible for the program).

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			214	3	3	9
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			12			
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			101,359	3	3	9
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			11			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	55	55	0			
		Black	6	5	1			
		Hispanic	32	33	-1			
		Asian	3	3	0			
		Other	4	4	0			
		Total minority	45	45	0			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	35	43	-8	1	2	2
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	35	43	-8			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	47	32	15	2	2	4
		Suburb	32	30	2			
		Town	5	13	-8			
		Rural	16	26	-10			
		Total nonsuburban	68	70	-2			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	13				4	1	4
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	14	Average annual open rate		6.4%	2	3	6
	2011-12	13						
	2012-13	9						
	2013-14	17						
	2014-15	16						
	Total number	69						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	5	Average annual closure rate		1.4%	2	3	6
	2010-11	1						
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	3						
	2013-14	2						
	Total number	14						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			3%	2	2	4
		STEM			7%			
		Arts			1%			
		Classical			9%			
		Purposely diverse			1%			
		Single sex			2%			
		International/Foreign language			3%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			11%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			4%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			2%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			39%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	7				2	3	6
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7				1	3	3
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		Performance	73	73	0			
		Improvement	15	17	2			
		Total	88	90	2			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		Priority Improvement	9	6	-3			
		Turnaround	3	4	1			
		Total	12	10	-2			
Totals		Grand Total Points			69	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state’s charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state’s charter schools that are start-ups			97	Percentage of a state’s charter public schools that are conversions		3
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state’s charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	45	180	4	84		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	1	34	34	16		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			9,895			
		Percentage of a state’s charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			10			
		Number of virtual charter schools			8			
		Percentage of a state’s charter schools that are virtual charter schools			4			

# Connecticut



Connecticut enacted its charter public school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #31 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. The law contains significant restrictions on charter school growth; includes a single authorizer; and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Connecticut's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 22 charter public schools and 8,036 charter public school students in Connecticut, constituting 2 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, on average, charter public schools in Connecticut served higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (50 percentage points more) and free and reduced-price lunch students (36 percentage points more) as compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 83 percent of the state's charter public schools were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 47 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, five new charter public schools opened in Connecticut, a 4.5 percent average annual open rate.

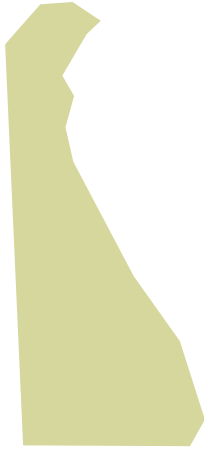


- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, one charter public school closed in Connecticut, a 1.1 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 72 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- During 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- The state board of education is the primary authorizer in the state. As of 2014-15, it had authorized 21 of the state's 22 charter public schools. A local school board had authorized the state's other charter public school.
- In 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Connecticut.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			22
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			2
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			8,036
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			1
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	9	59	-50
		Black	61	12	49
		Hispanic	26	21	5
		Asian	2	5	-3
		Other	2	3	-1
		Total minority	91	41	50
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	73	37	36
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	73	37	36
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	78	28	50
		Suburb	17	53	-36
		Town	6	4	2
		Rural	0	15	-15
		Total nonsuburban	79	70	9
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		4.5%
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	1			
	2014-15	4			
	Total number	5			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		1.1%
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	1			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		48%		
		STEM		8%		
		Arts		0		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		0		
		Montessori/Waldorf		8%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		4%		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		4%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		72%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	1	1	1	5
		SEAs	1	21	21	95
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Delaware



Delaware enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #24 out of 43. Delaware allows multiple authorizing entities and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its charter schools. However, it has enacted a moratorium on growth in Wilmington and provides inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Delaware's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 24 charter public schools and 11,346 charter public school students in Delaware, constituting 11 percent of the state's public schools and 8 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Delaware served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (4 percentage points more) but a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (2 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 68 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 45 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, three communities in Delaware had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters.

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, seven new charter public schools opened in Delaware, a 5.8 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, two charter public schools closed in Delaware, a 1.9 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 55 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- During 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- The state allows local school boards and the state board of education to serve as authorizers. As of 2014-15, one local school board had authorized three charter public schools, and the state board of education had authorized 21 charter public schools.
- During 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Delaware.

# Delaware

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			24
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			11
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			11,346
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			8
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	44	48	-4
		Black	40	30	10
		Hispanic	8	15	-7
		Asian	6	4	2
		Other	2	3	-1
		Total minority	56	52	4
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	38	40	-2
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	38	40	-2
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	57	13	44
		Suburb	32	55	-23
		Town	4	16	-12
		Rural	7	16	-9
		Total nonsuburban	68	45	23
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	3			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	1	Average annual open rate		5.8%
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	2014-15	3			
	Total number	7			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		1.9%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	2			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		25%		
		STEM		5%		
		Arts		0		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		10%		
		International/Foreign language		10%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		0		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		5%		
		Vocational training		5%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		55%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	1	3	3	13
		SEAs	1	21	21	87
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# District of Columbia

## RANKING:

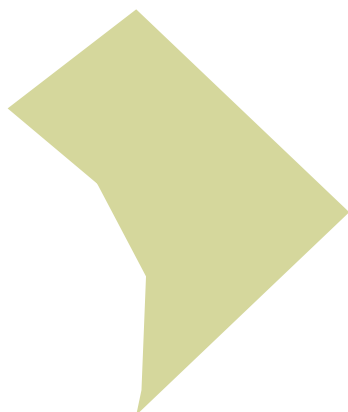
# #1

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 106

POINTS  
(out of 132)<sup>3</sup>



## Law Summary

The District of Columbia enacted its charter public school law in 1996.

In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #12 out of 43. D.C.'s law has a cap on charters 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 charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

D.C.'s charter public school movement ranked #1 out of 18, scoring 106 points out of 116.

D.C. scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 50 percent of D.C.'s public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 44 percent of D.C.'s public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, D.C.'s charter public schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (8 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 24 charter public schools closed in D.C., a 4.5 percent average annual closure rate.

- In 2012-13, 55 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (72 more days in reading and 101 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom category of the D.C. Public Charter School Board's accountability system decreased by 4 percentage points (from 12 percent to 8 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in D.C.:

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 39 public charters opened in D.C., a 7 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top category of the D.C. Public Charter School Board's accountability system decreased by 2 percentage points (from 36 percent to 34 percent).
- During 2014-15, 94 percent of D.C.'s charter public schools were start-ups and 6 percent were conversions.



- In 2014-15, D.C. allowed only the D.C. Public Charter School Board to serve as an authorizer, so the D.C. Public Charter School Board oversaw 100 percent of D.C.'s 112 charter public schools that year.
- During 2013-14, one full-time virtual charter public school operated in D.C., serving 1,604 students.
- D.C. has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- D.C.'s charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* and the D.C. Public Charter School Board's accountability system.

### Concluding Thoughts

- D.C. has a relatively good charter law. It has laid a strong foundation for the creation of a healthy charter public school movement. However, the law still needs to provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charter students.
- A relatively high percentage of D.C.'s public schools and students are charter schools and students, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
- D.C.'s charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.

---

<sup>3</sup> Only 10 of the 13 indicators were applicable to the District of Columbia. D.C. received 90 out of 112 points for those nine indicators, or 80 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 13 indicators (132) by 80 percent to get a score comparable to the other states.

# District of Columbia

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			112	4	3	12
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			50			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			37,684	4	3	12
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			44			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	3	2	6
		White	4	12	-8			
		Black	82	68	14			
		Hispanic	12	16	-4			
		Asian	1	2	-1			
		Other	1	2	-1			
		Total minority	96	88	8			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	99	99	0	N/A	2	N/A
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	99	99	0			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	100	100	0	N/A	2	N/A
		Suburb	0	0	0			
		Town	0	0	0			
		Rural	0	0	0			
		Total nonsuburban	100	100	0			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1				N/A	1	N/A
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	7	Average annual open rate		7.0%	2	3	6
	2011-12	10						
	2012-13	6						
	2013-14	4						
	2014-15	12						
	Total number	39						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	6	Average annual closure rate		4.5%	3	3	9
	2010-11	4						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	3						
	2013-14	10						
	Total number	24						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		14%		3	2	6
		STEM		4%				
		Arts		3%				
		Classical		3%				
		Purposely diverse		0				
		Single sex		1%				
		International/Foreign language		12%				
		Montessori/Waldorf		13%				
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		5%				
		Military		1%				
		Vocational training		4%				
		Public policy/Citizenship		4%				
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		55%				
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	72				4	3	12
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	101				4	3	12
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		Tier I	36	34	-2			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	3	3	9
		Tier III	12	8	-4			
Totals		Grand Total Points			90	Total Possible Points		112
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			94	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		6
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	-	-	-	-		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	1	112	112	100		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			1,604			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			4			
		Number of virtual charter schools			1			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			1			

# Florida

## RANKING:

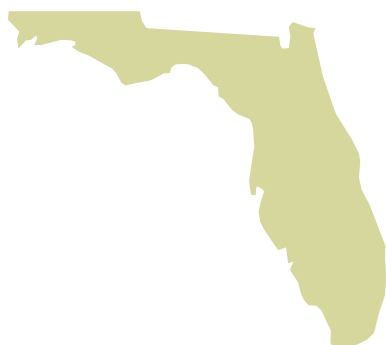
# #6

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 77

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Florida enacted its charter public school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #9 out of 43. Florida does not cap charter growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, the law still provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Florida's charter public school movement ranked #6 out of 18, scoring 77 points out of 132.

Florida scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 16 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (6 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, 12 communities in Florida had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 344 public charters opened in Florida, a 10.5 percent average annual open rate.

- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 101 public charters closed in Florida, a 3.2 percent average annual closure rate.

Florida scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Florida served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (10 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in reading (seven fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students, and the same academic growth in math.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Florida:

- In 2014-15, 9 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2012-13, 46 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 49 percent of the state's traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 35 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system stayed the same (62 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 1 percentage point (from 17 percent to 18 percent).
- During 2014-15, 97 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 3 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 46 local school boards had authorized 650 charter public schools (99.5 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools), and two higher education institutions had authorized three charter public schools (.5 percent).
- In 2013-14, 11 full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Florida, serving 1,247 students (.01 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Florida has a relatively good charter law, but it still needs to provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charter students.
- In Florida, a relatively high percentage of the state's public schools are charters, which shows a high demand for these innovative public school options.
- In Florida, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students than traditional public schools, which shows that charters, in some cases, are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- We encourage the state to continue to strengthen school and authorizer accountability, enhance its funding and facilities support to charters, and explore why charters are serving lower percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students.

# Florida

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Growth Indicators									
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			653	4	3	12	
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			16				
2. Percentage of a state’s public ischool students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			250,583	2	3	6	
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			9				
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	3	2	6	
		White	35	41	-6				
		Black	22	23	-1				
		Hispanic	38	29	9				
		Asian	2	3	-1				
		Other	3	4	-1				
		Total minority	65	59	6				
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	49	59	-10	1	2	2	
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		Total special student populations	49	59	-10				
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	35	29	6	2	2	4	
		Suburb	54	51	3				
		Town	3	7	-4				
		Rural	8	13	-5				
		Total nonsuburban	46	49	-3				
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	12				4	1	4	
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	57				3	3	9	
	2011-12	76							
	2012-13	80							
	2013-14	75							
	2014-15	56							
	Total number	344	Average annual open rate	10.5%					
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	7	Average annual closure rate			3.2%	4	3	12
	2010-11	20							
	2011-12	20							
	2012-13	26							
	2013-14	28							
	Total number	101							

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Innovation Indicators									
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				1%	2	2	4
		STEM				5%			
		Arts				5%			
		Classical				2%			
		Purposely diverse				0			
		Single sex				1%			
		International/Foreign language				8%			
		Montessori/Waldorf				6%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				7%			
		Military				0.4%			
		Vocational training				4%			
		Public policy/Citizenship				0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				35%			
Quality Indicators									
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11					-7	1	3	3
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11					0	1	3	3
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6	
		A	42	46	4				
		B	20	16	-4				
		Total	62	62	0				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6	
		D	10	8	-2				
		F	7	10	3				
		Total	17	18	1				
Totals		Grand Total Points			77	Total Possible Points		132	
Items Reported but Not Scored									
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			97	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		3	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer			
		LEAs	46	650	14	99.5			
		SEAs	-	-	-	-			
		ICBs	2	3	1.5	0.5			
		NEGs	-	-	-	-			
		HEIs	-	-	-	-			
		NFPs	-	-	-	-			
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students				1,247			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools				0.01			
		Number of virtual charter schools				11			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools				0.02			

# Georgia

## RANKING:

# #14

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 58

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Georgia enacted its charter public school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #18 out of 43. Georgia does not cap charter school growth, provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, and provides adequate autonomy and accountability. It also provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Georgia's charter public school movement ranked #14 out of 18, scoring 58 points out of 132.

Georgia scored relatively well on the following indicator:

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 69 public charters opened in Georgia, a 13.4 percent average annual open rate.

Georgia scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Georgia served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (6 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.

- During 2012-13, 57 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 63 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in math (14 fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Georgia:

- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Georgia served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (1 percentage point more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, five communities in Georgia had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 36 charter public schools closed in Georgia, a 6.5 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 47 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (14 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.



- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system stayed the same (43 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 27 percent to 29 percent).
- In 2014-15, 68 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups and 32 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 36 local school boards had authorized 82 charter public schools (85 percent of the state's total number of public charters) and the Georgia Charter Schools Commission had authorized 15 charter public schools (15 percent).
- In 2013-14, two full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Georgia, serving 15,659 students (22 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Georgia has a relatively good charter law. However, the law most needs to provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charter students.
- Georgia is seeing relatively strong growth in the number of new charters opening each year.
- We encourage the state to explore why charters are serving lower percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students and nonsuburban students than traditional public schools.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Growth Indicators									
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools				103	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters				5			
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students				83,277	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students				5			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4	
		White	42	43	-1				
		Black	40	37	3				
		Hispanic	11	13	-2				
		Asian	4	4	0				
		Other	3	3	0				
		Total minority	58	57	1				
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	56	62	-6	1	2	2	
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		Total special student populations	56	62	-6				
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	35	19	16	1	2	2	
		Suburb	43	37	6				
		Town	7	13	-6				
		Rural	15	31	-16				
		Total nonsuburban	57	63	-6				
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	5				2	1	2	
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	19	Average annual open rate		13.4%	4	3	12	
	2011-12	20							
	2012-13	7							
	2013-14	10							
	2014-15	13							
	Total number	69							
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	7	Average annual closure rate		6.5%	2	3	6	
	2010-11	8							
	2011-12	10							
	2012-13	8							
	2013-14	4							
	Total number	37							

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Innovation Indicators									
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				9%	3	2	6
		STEM				4%			
		Arts				3%			
		Classical				3%			
		Purposely diverse				2%			
		Single sex				5%			
		International/Foreign language				3%			
		Montessori/Waldorf				6%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				3%			
		Military				0			
		Vocational training				17%			
		Public policy/Citizenship				0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				47%			
		Quality Indicators							
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14				2	3	6	
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-14				0	3	0	
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6	
		90 to 100+	19	15	-4				
		80 to 89	24	28	4				
		Total	43	43	0				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6	
		60 to 69	16	15	-1				
		Less than 60	11	14	3				
		Total	27	29	2				
Totals		Grand Total Points			58	Total Possible Points		132	
Items Reported but Not Scored									
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			68	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		32	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer			
		LEAs	36	82	2	85			
		SEAs	-	-	-	-			
		ICBs	1	15	15	15			
		NEGs	-	-	-	-			
		HEIs	-	-	-	-			
		NFPs	-	-	-	-			
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students				15,659			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools				22			
		Number of virtual charter schools				2			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools				2			

# Hawaii



Hawaii enacted its charter public school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #26 out of 43. Hawaii does not cap charter school growth and provides a single authorizing option to charter applicants. Hawaii made some substantial improvements to its charter law in 2012, particularly in relation to governance and accountability. However, the law still provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Hawaii's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 34 charter public schools and 10,413 charter public school students in Hawaii, constituting 12 percent of the state's public schools and 6 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Hawaii served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (15 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (1 percentage point less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 85 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 61 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, three new charter public schools opened in Hawaii, a 1.8 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, no charter public schools closed in Hawaii.

- In 2012-13, 45 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 1 percentage point (from 68 percent to 69 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom three categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 1 percentage point (from 32 percent to 31 percent).
- During 2014-15, 82 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 18 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, the state's independent charter authorizer had authorized 100 percent of the state's 34 public charters.
- In 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Hawaii.

Indicator	Year	Data				
Growth Indicators						
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			34	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			12	
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			10,413	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			6	
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	
		White	28	13	15	
		Black	1	2	-1	
		Hispanic	8	10	-2	
		Asian	12	33	-21	
		Other	51	42	9	
		Total minority	72	87	-15	
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	50	51	-1	
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Total special student populations	50	51	-1	
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	24	25	-1	
		Suburb	15	39	-24	
		Town	26	25	1	
		Rural	35	11	24	
		Total nonsuburban	85	61	24	
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0				
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		1.8%	
	2011-12	0				
	2012-13	1				
	2013-14	1				
	2014-15	1				
	Total number	3				
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		0.0%	
	2010-11	0				
	2011-12	0				
	2012-13	0				
	2013-14	0				
	Total number	0				

Indicator	Year	Data							
Innovation Indicators									
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				0			
		STEM				6%			
		Arts				0			
		Classical				0			
		Purposely diverse				3%			
		Single sex				0			
		International/Foreign language				23%			
		Montessori/Waldorf				13%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				0			
		Military				0			
		Vocational training				3%			
		Public policy/Citizenship				0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				45%			
Quality Indicators									
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-							
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-							
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference				
		Recognition	3	3	0				
		4 Stars	65	66	1				
		Total	68	69	1				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference				
		Focus	16	19	3				
		Priority	16	12	4				
		Superintendent's Zone	0	0	0				
		Total	32	31	-1				
Totals		Grand Total Points				Total Possible Points			
Items Reported but Not Scored									
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			82	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		18	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer			
		LEAs	-	-	-	-			
		SEAs	-	-	-	-			
		ICBs	1	34	34	100			
		NEGs	-	-	-	-			
		HEIs	-	-	-	-			
		NFPs	-	-	-	-			
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students				0			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools				0			
		Number of virtual charter schools				0			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools				0			

# Idaho



Idaho enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #22 out of 43. 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 charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Idaho's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 48 charter public schools and 20,449 charter public school students in Idaho, constituting 7 percent of the state's public schools and 7 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Idaho served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (10 percentage points less) and a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (11 percentage points less) than traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 68 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 81 percent of traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, only one community in Idaho had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.

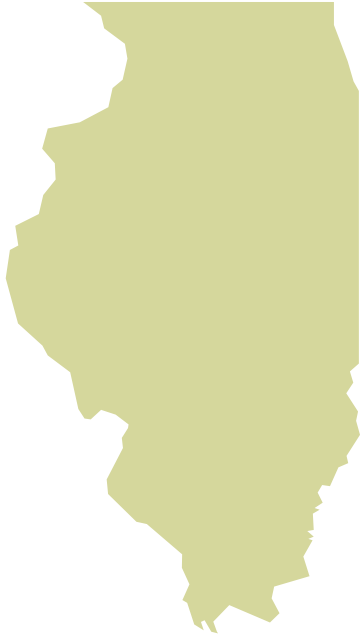


- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 17 new charter public schools opened in Idaho, a 7.1 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, five charter public schools closed in Idaho, a 2.1 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 40 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- In 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- As of 2014-15, 13 local school boards had authorized 15 charter public schools (31 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools), and the state's independent charter board had authorized 33 charter public schools (69 percent).
- During 2013-14, five full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Idaho, serving 4,781 students (23 percent of the charter population).

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			48
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			7
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			20,449
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			7
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	86	76	10
		Black	1	1	0
		Hispanic	9	18	-9
		Asian	1	1	0
		Other	3	4	-1
		Total minority	14	24	-10
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	37	48	-11
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	37	48	-11
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	19	17	2
		Suburb	32	19	13
		Town	30	24	6
		Rural	19	40	-21
		Total nonsuburban	68	81	-13
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	5	Average annual open rate		7.1%
	2011-12	4			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	4			
	2014-15	3			
	Total number	17			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average Annual Closure Rate		2.1%
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	2			
	Total Number	5			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2012-13	No Excuses		0		
		STEM		7%		
		Arts		2%		
		Classical		4%		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		2%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		20%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		9%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		2%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		40%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	13	15	1	31
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	1	33	33	69
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Illinois



Illinois enacted its charter public school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #32 out of 43. While Illinois' law provides an appellate process for charter 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 for charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Illinois' movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 3 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools (47 percentage points more).
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Illinois served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (38 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 89 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 59 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, only one community in Illinois had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 56 public charters opened in Illinois, a 7.6 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 10 public charters closed in Illinois, a 1.4 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 48 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (14 more days in reading and 22 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- During 2014-15, 94 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups and 6 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, 11 local school boards had authorized and opened 144 charter public schools (97 percent of the state's total number of public charters), and the state's independent charter board had authorized four charter public schools (3 percent).
- During 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Illinois.

Indicator	Year	Data				
Growth Indicators						
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			148	
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			3	
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			62,429	
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			3	
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	
		White	4	51	-47	
		Black	56	16	40	
		Hispanic	36	24	12	
		Asian	1	5	-4	
		Other	3	4	-1	
		Total minority	96	49	47	
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	88	50	38	
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Total special student populations	88	50	38	
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	84	24	60	
		Suburb	11	41	-30	
		Town	3	14	-11	
		Rural	2	21	-19	
		Total nonsuburban	89	59	30	
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1				
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	17	Average annual open rate		7.6%	
	2011-12	7				
	2012-13	10				
	2013-14	14				
	2014-15	8				
	Total number	56				
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	3	Average annual closure rate		1.4%	
	2010-11	0				
	2011-12	0				
	2012-13	3				
	2013-14	4				
	Total number	10				

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		4%		
		STEM		5%		
		Arts		2%		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		3%		
		International/Foreign language		3%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		4%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		20%		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		5%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		11%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		48%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	22				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		94	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	11	144	13	97
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	1	4	4	3
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Indiana

## RANKING:

# #2

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 88

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Indiana enacted its charter public school law in 2001. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #1 out of 43. Indiana's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. While the law still provides inequitable funding to charters, the state has made recent strides in closing the funding gap between charter students and their counterparts in traditional public schools.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Indiana's charter public school movement ranked #2 out of 18, scoring 88 points out of 132.

Indiana scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Indiana served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (14 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 87 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 78 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 39 public charters opened in Indiana, a 9.9 percent average annual open rate.

- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 14 public charters closed in Indiana, a 3.7 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 45 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (36 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 12 percentage points (from 25 percent to 37 percent).

Indiana scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, only 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2014-15, only three communities in Indiana had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Indiana:

- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and



ethnic minority students (32 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.

- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in math (14 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 1 percentage point (from 57 percent to 56 percent).
- During 2014-15, 98 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups and 2 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, three local school boards had authorized four charter public schools (5 percent of the state's total number of public charters), one independent state charter board had authorized nine public charters (11 percent), one noneducational government entity had authorized 30 public charters (38 percent), and four higher education institutions had authorized 37 public charters (46 percent).
- In 2013-14, four full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Indiana, serving 7,016 students (20 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Indiana has the strongest charter school law in the country. It has laid a strong foundation for the creation of a healthy charter public school movement. While the law still provides inequitable funding to charters, the state has recently made strides in closing the funding gap between charter students and their counterparts in traditional public schools.
- In Indiana, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- Indiana also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- Indiana's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as especially demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			79	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			4			
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			37,448	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			4			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	40	72	-32			
		Black	44	11	33			
		Hispanic	10	10	0			
		Asian	1	2	-1			
		Other	5	5	0			
		Total minority	60	28	32			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	63	49	14	4	2	8
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	63	49	14			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	79	25	54	3	2	6
		Suburb	13	22	-9			
		Town	4	17	-13			
		Rural	4	36	-32			
		Total nonsuburban	87	78	9			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	3				1	1	1
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	8	Average annual open rate		9.9%	3	3	9
	2011-12	4						
	2012-13	10						
	2013-14	11						
	2014-15	6						
	Total number	39						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		3.7%	4	3	12
	2010-11	1						
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	8						
	2013-14	2						
	Total number	14						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Innovation Indicators									
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				14%	3	2	6
		STEM				3%			
		Arts				11%			
		Classical				2%			
		Purposely diverse				0			
		Single sex				3%			
		International/Foreign language				0			
		Montessori/Waldorf				9%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				6%			
		Military				2%			
		Vocational training				5%			
		Public policy/Citizenship				0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				45%			
Quality Indicators									
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	36				4	3	12	
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	14				2	3	6	
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	4	3	12	
		A	23	24	1				
		B	2	13	11				
		Total	25	37	12				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6	
		D	26	27	1				
		F	31	29	-2				
		Total	57	56	-1				
Totals		Grand Total Points			88	Total Possible Points		132	
Items Reported but Not Scored									
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			98	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		2	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer			
		LEAs	3	4	1	5			
		SEAs	-	-	-	-			
		ICBs	1	9	9	11			
		NEGs	1	30	30	38			
		HEIs	4	37	9	46			
		NFPs	-	-	-	-			
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			7,016				
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			20				
		Number of virtual charter schools			4				
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			5				

# Iowa



Iowa enacted its charter public school law in 2002. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #41 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Iowa's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were three charter public schools and 322 charter public school students in Iowa, constituting .2 percent of the state's public schools and .1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Iowa served, on average, more racial and ethnic minority students (39 percentage points more) and more free and reduced-price lunch students (37 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 100 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 92 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, one new charter public school opened in Iowa, an average annual open rate of 6.7 percent.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, six charter public schools closed in Iowa, an average annual closure rate of 40 percent.
- In 2012-13, 67 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- In 2014-15, all three of the state's charter public schools were conversions, meaning there were no start-up charters in the state.
- In 2014-15, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. As of that year, three had done so.
- During 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Iowa.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			3
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			0.2
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			322
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			0.1
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	40	79	-39
		Black	35	5	30
		Hispanic	13	10	3
		Asian	3	2	1
		Other	9	4	5
		Total minority	60	21	39
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	78	41	37
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	78	41	37
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	33	17	16
		Suburb	0	8	-8
		Town	33	24	9
		Rural	33	51	-18
		Total nonsuburban	100	92	8
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	1	Average annual open rate		6.7%
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	2014-15	0			
	Total number	1			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		40.0%
	2010-11	2			
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	6			

Indicator	Year	Data					
Innovation Indicators							
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			0		
		STEM			0		
		Arts			0		
		Classical			0		
		Purposely diverse			0		
		Single sex			0		
		International/Foreign language			0		
		Montessori/Waldorf			0		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			0		
		Military			0		
		Vocational training			67%		
		Public policy/Citizenship			0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			67%		
Quality Indicators							
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-					
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-					
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-					
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-					
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored							
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	0	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions			100
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer	
		LEAs	3	3	1	100	
		SEAs	-	-	-	-	
		ICBs	-	-	-	-	
		NEGs	-	-	-	-	
		HEIs	-	-	-	-	
		NFPs	-	-	-	-	
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0		
		Number of virtual charter schools			0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0		

# Kansas



Kansas enacted its charter public school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, Kansas' law ranked #42 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Kansas' movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 11 charter public schools and 2,677 charter public school students in Kansas, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Kansas served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (11 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (27 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 100 percent of charter public schools were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 88 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, zero new charter public schools opened in Kansas.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 25 charter public schools closed in Kansas, a 45.5 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 45 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- In 2014-15, 91 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 9 percent were conversions.
- Only local school districts are allowed to authorize in the state. As of 2014-15, 11 had done so.
- In 2013-14, two full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Kansas, serving 785 students (18 percent of the state's charter public school population).

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			11
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			1
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			2,677
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			1
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	77	66	11
		Black	6	7	-1
		Hispanic	10	18	-8
		Asian	1	3	-2
		Other	6	6	0
		Total minority	23	34	-11
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	23	50	-27
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	23	50	-27
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	7	18	-11
		Suburb	0	12	-12
		Town	20	25	-5
		Rural	73	45	28
		Total nonsuburban	100	88	12
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		0.0%
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	2014-15	0			
	Total number	0			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	11	Average annual closure rate		45.5%
	2010-11	8			
	2011-12	2			
	2012-13	4			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	25			



Indicator	Year	Data						
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			0			
		STEM			0			
		Arts			0			
		Classical			0			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			0			
		Montessori/Waldorf			13%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			13%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			9%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			45%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-						
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-						
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-						
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-						
Totals		Grand Total Points				Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	91	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions				9
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	11	11	1	100		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			785			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			31			
		Number of virtual charter schools			2			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			18			

# Louisiana

## RANKING:

# #5

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 78

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Louisiana enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #4 out of 43. Louisiana's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Louisiana's charter public school movement ranked #5 out of 18, scoring 78 points out of 132.

Louisiana scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 10 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Louisiana served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (8 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, 94 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 75 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 77 public charters opened in Louisiana, an 11.9 percent average annual open rate.

- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 26 charter public schools closed in Louisiana, a 4.4 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 39 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (50 more days in reading and 65 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

Louisiana scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- During 2014-15, only two communities had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 3 percentage points (from 31 percent to 28 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 8 percentage points (from 31 percent to 39 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Louisiana:

- In 2014-15, 9 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Louisiana served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (32 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- During 2012-13, 41 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups and 59 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 10 local school boards had authorized 35 charter public schools (27 percent of the state's total number of public charters), and the state board of education had authorized 97 charter public schools (73 percent).
- During 2013-14, two full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Louisiana, serving 2,481 students (4 percent of the state's public charter population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Louisiana has one of the strongest laws in the country. It has laid a strong foundation for the creation of a healthy charter public school movement. However, the law most needs to provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charter students.
- In Louisiana, a relatively high percentage of the state's public school students are charter students, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
- In Louisiana, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- Louisiana also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- Louisiana's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as especially demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*.
- It is important to note that Louisiana toughened its standards and tests in 2013-14, which caused the decrease in the percentage of charters performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system as well as the increase in the percentage of charters performing in the bottom two categories.

# Louisiana

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			129	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			9			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			69,078	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			10			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	18	50	-32			
		Black	74	42	32			
		Hispanic	4	5	-1			
		Asian	2	1	1			
		Other	2	2	0			
		Total minority	82	50	32			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	74	66	8	3	2	6
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	74	66	8			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	84	23	61	3	2	6
		Suburb	6	25	-19			
		Town	4	18	-14			
		Rural	6	34	-28			
		Total nonsuburban	94	75	19			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	2				1	1	1
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	14	Average annual open rate		11.9%	3	3	9
	2011-12	13						
	2012-13	14						
	2013-14	18						
	2014-15	18						
	Total number	77						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		4.4%	3	3	9
	2010-11	4						
	2011-12	9						
	2012-13	6						
	2013-14	6						
	Total number	26						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			12%	2	2	4
		STEM			8%			
		Arts			5%			
		Classical			0			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			2%			
		International/Foreign language			7%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			4%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			4%			
		Military			1%			
		Vocational training			3%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			39%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	50				4	3	12
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	65				4	3	12
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	1	3	3
		A	9	10	1			
		B	22	18	-4			
		Total	31	28	-3			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	0	3	0
		D	22	28	6			
		F	9	11	2			
		Total	31	39	8			
Totals		Grand Total Points		78	Total Possible Points		132	
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		41	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		59	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	10	35	4	27		
		SEAs	1	97	97	73		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			2,481			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			4			
		Number of virtual charter schools			2			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			2			

# Maine



Maine enacted its charter public school law in 2011. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #6 out of 43.

Maine's relatively new 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' facility needs.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison

with its traditional public schools.

Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Maine's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were six charter public schools and 857 charter public school students in Maine, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and .5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, on average, charter public schools in Maine served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (2 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (22 percentage points less) as compared with traditional public schools.

- Between 2012-13 and 2014-15, all six of Maine's charter public schools opened, a 20 percent average annual open rate.
- In 2012-13, 50 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- During 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- The state charter schools commission is the sole authorizer in the state. As of 2014-15, it had authorized six charter public schools.

Indicator	Year	Data				
Growth Indicators						
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			6	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			1	
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			857	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			0.5	
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	
		White	93	91	2	
		Black	4	3	1	
		Hispanic	1	2	-1	
		Asian	1	2	-1	
		Other	1	2	-1	
		Total minority	7	9	-2	
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	24	66	-42	
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Total special student populations	24	66	-42	
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Suburb	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Town	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Rural	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Total nonsuburban	N/A	N/A	N/A	
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0				
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	-	Average annual open rate		20.0%	
	2011-12	0				
	2012-13	2				
	2013-14	3				
	2014-15	1				
	Total number	6				
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	-	Average annual closure rate		0.0%	
	2010-11	-				
	2011-12	-				
	2012-13	0				
	2013-14	0				
	Total number	0				



Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		0		
		STEM		50%		
		Arts		0		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		0		
		Montessori/Waldorf		50%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		0		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		50%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	-
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	1	6	6	100
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Maryland



Maryland enacted its charter public school law in 2003. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #43 out of 43, making it the weakest law in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Maryland's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 49 charter public schools and 19,370 charter public school students in Maryland, constituting 4 percent of the state's public schools and 2 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Maryland served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (28 percentage points more) and free and reduced-price lunch students (21 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 74 percent of charter public schools were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 43 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, only one community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students enrolled in charters.

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 24 new charter public schools opened in Maryland, a 9.1 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, seven charter public schools closed in Maryland, a 2.7 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 60 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- In 2014-15, 77 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 23 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. Five of them had done so.
- In 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Maryland.

# Maryland

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			49
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			4
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			19,370
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			2
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	14	42	-28
		Black	77	34	43
		Hispanic	6	14	-8
		Asian	1	6	-5
		Other	2	4	-2
		Total minority	86	58	28
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	65	44	21
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	65	44	21
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	72	23	49
		Suburb	26	57	-31
		Town	0	4	-4
		Rural	2	16	-14
		Total nonsuburban	74	43	31
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	9	Average annual open rate		9.1%
	2011-12	7			
	2012-13	2			
	2013-14	3			
	2014-15	3			
	Total number	24			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		2.7%
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	3			
	2013-14	2			
	Total number	7			

Indicator	Year	Data					
Innovation Indicators							
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		9%			
		STEM		12%			
		Arts		16%			
		Classical		0			
		Purposely diverse		0			
		Single sex		2%			
		International/Foreign language		5%			
		Montessori/Waldorf		37%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		2%			
		Military		0			
		Vocational training		0			
		Public policy/Citizenship		0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		60%			
Quality Indicators							
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-					
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-					
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-					
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-					
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored							
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		77	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		23
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer	
		LEAs	5	53	11	100	
		SEAs	-	-	-	-	
		ICBs	-	-	-	-	
		NEGs	-	-	-	-	
		HEIs	-	-	-	-	
		NFPs	-	-	-	-	
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0		
		Number of virtual charter schools			0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0		

# Massachusetts

## RANKING:

# #4

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 82

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Massachusetts enacted its charter public school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #11 out of 43. Massachusetts provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, but it contains a variety of caps on charter growth, includes only a single authorizing path, and provides inequitable funding.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Massachusetts' charter public school movement ranked #4 out of 18, scoring 82 points out of 132.

Massachusetts scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Massachusetts served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (16 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 10 charter public schools closed in the state, a 2.5 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 44 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (36 more days in reading and 65 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- In 2012-13 and 2013-14, no charter public school performed in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system.

Massachusetts scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, only 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- During 2014-15, only one community had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Massachusetts:

- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (31 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.

- In 2012-13, 53 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 38 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 27 public charters opened in the state, a 6.9 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 90 percent to 92 percent).
- During 2014-15, 95 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups and 5 percent were conversions.
- The only authorizer in Massachusetts is the state board of education. As of 2014-15, the state board of education had authorized 78 public charters.
- During 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Massachusetts.

## Concluding Thoughts

- Massachusetts has a relatively good charter law, but it still needs improvements such as lifting its many restrictions on charter school growth and providing more equitable funding and facilities support to charters.
- In Massachusetts, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- Massachusetts also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- Massachusetts' charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as especially demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* and the state's accountability system.

# Massachusetts

Indicator:	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			78	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			4			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			37,402	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			4			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	35	66	-31			
		Black	29	8	21			
		Hispanic	27	17	10			
		Asian	5	6	-1			
		Other	4	3	1			
		Total minority	65	34	31			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	54	38	16	3	2	6
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	54	38	16			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	49	17	32	2	2	4
		Suburb	47	70	-23			
		Town	0	2	-2			
		Rural	4	11	-7			
		Total nonsuburban	53	30	23			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1				1	1	1
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	2	Average annual open rate		6.9%	2	3	6
	2011-12	9						
	2012-13	7						
	2013-14	6						
	2014-15	3						
	Total number	27						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		2.5%	3	3	9
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	2						
	2013-14	6						
	Total number	10						



Indicator:	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			13%	2	2	4
		STEM			9%			
		Arts			5%			
		Classical			1%			
		Purposely diverse			1%			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			3%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			12%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			4%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			1%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			44%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	36				4	3	12
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	65				4	3	12
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		1	59	44	-15			
		2	31	48	17			
		Total	90	92	2			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	4	3	12
		4	0	0	0			
		5	0	0	0			
		Total	0	0	0			
Totals		Grand Total Points			82	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			95	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		5
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	-	-	-	-		
		SEAs	1	78	78	100		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0			
		Number of virtual charter schools			0			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0			

# Michigan

## RANKING:

# #3

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 85

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Michigan enacted its charter public school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #21 out of 43. 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.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Michigan's charter public school movement ranked #3 out of 18, scoring 85 points out of 132.

Michigan scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, nine communities in Michigan had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 47 charters closed in Michigan, a 3.2 percent average annual closure rate.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (43 more days in reading and 43 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

- The percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 10 percentage points between 2012-13 and 2013-14 (from 9 percent to 19 percent).

Michigan scored relatively low on the following indicator:

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 12 percentage points (from 24 percent to 36 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Michigan:

- In 2014-15, 8 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 9 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (39 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.

- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Michigan served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (26 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 68 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 64 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 114 charters opened in Michigan, a 7.4 percent average annual open rate.
- In 2012-13, 31 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- During 2014-15, 99.7 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and .3 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 12 higher education institutions had authorized 253 charter public schools (82 percent of the state's total number of public charters) and 28 local school districts, intermediate school districts, and educational service agencies had authorized 54 charter public schools (18 percent).
- In 2013-14, seven full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Michigan, serving 2,031 students (1 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

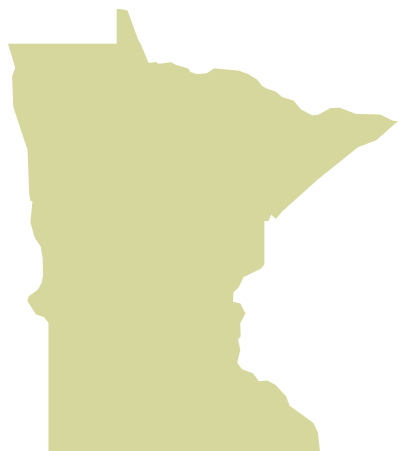
- Michigan has a relatively good charter law. In addition, the state has an active Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (MCCSA) that has adopted a common set of comprehensive oversight and accountability standards that are not always required by the state's charter school law. The combination of a good law and an active MCCSA has significantly contributed to the health of the state's movement.
- In Michigan, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- Michigan's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as especially demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*.
- However, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 12 percentage points between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Therefore, we encourage the state to prohibit schools facing closures from switching authorizers to stay open, prevent operators with poorly performing schools from opening more charters, and improve authorizer accountability (including through the broader use of authorizer standards that have been developed in the state).

# Michigan

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			307	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			8			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			138,949	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			9			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	33	72	-39			
		Black	53	15	38			
		Hispanic	8	6	2			
		Asian	3	3	0			
		Other	3	4	-1			
		Total minority	67	28	39			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	72	46	26	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	72	46	26			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	52	20	32	2	2	4
		Suburb	32	36	-4			
		Town	4	14	-10			
		Rural	12	30	-18			
		Total nonsuburban	68	64	4			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	9				3	1	3
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	13	Average annual open rate		7.4%	2	3	6
	2011-12	19						
	2012-13	32						
	2013-14	33						
	2014-15	17						
	Total number	114						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	12	Average annual closure rate		3.2%	4	3	12
	2010-11	4						
	2011-12	12						
	2012-13	12						
	2013-14	7						
	Total number	47						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			5%	2	2	4
		STEM			3%			
		Arts			4%			
		Classical			0.3%			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			1%			
		International/Foreign language			4%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			9%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			7%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			1%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0.3%			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			31%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	43				4	3	12
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	43				4	3	12
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	4	3	12
		Green	9	1	-8			
		Lime	0	18	18			
		Total	9	19	10			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	0	3	0
		Orange	7	14	7			
		Red	17	22	5			
		Total	24	36	12			
Totals		Grand Total Points		85	Total Possible Points		132	
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		99.7	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		0.3	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	28	54	2	18		
		SEAs	1	21	21	95		
		ICBs	-	-	-	0		
		NEGs	-	-	-	0		
		HEIs	12	253	21	82		
		NFPs	-	-	-	0		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			2,031			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			1			
		Number of virtual charter schools			7			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			2			

# Minnesota



Minnesota enacted the nation's first charter public school law in 1991. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #3 out of 43, in part due to a major overhaul of its charter public school law in 2009. Minnesota's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it provides inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Minnesota's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 7 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (25 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Minnesota served a higher percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches (17 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 76 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 72 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, three communities in Minnesota had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.

- In 2012-13, 54 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 28 public charters opened in Minnesota, a 3.5 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 23 public charters closed in Minnesota, a 3.1 percent average annual closure rate.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (14 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in math (seven fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- During 2014-15, 99 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 1 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, five local school boards had authorized nine charter public schools (6 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools), seven higher education institutions had authorized 25 charter public schools (16 percent), and 12 nonprofit organizations had authorized 123 charter public schools (78 percent).
- In 2013-14, three full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Minnesota, serving 1,761 students (4 percent of the state's charter public school population).

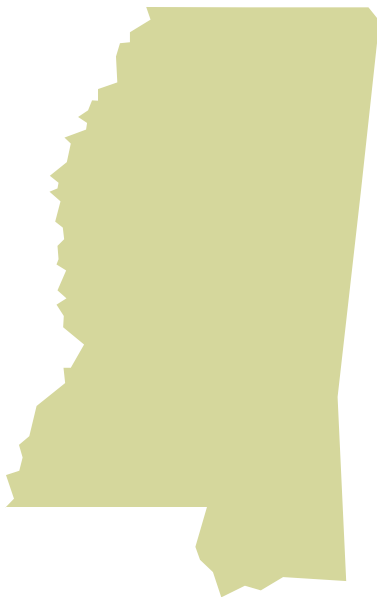
# Minnesota

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			158
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			7
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			45,322
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			5
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	47	72	-25
		Black	25	9	16
		Hispanic	9	8	1
		Asian	14	6	8
		Other	5	5	0
		Total minority	53	28	25
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	55	38	17
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	55	38	17
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	50	19	31
		Suburb	24	28	-4
		Town	9	22	-13
		Rural	17	31	-14
		Total nonsuburban	76	72	4
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	3			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	1	Average annual open rate		3.5%
	2011-12	6			
	2012-13	4			
	2013-14	7			
	2014-15	10			
	Total number	28			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		3.5%
	2010-11	6			
	2011-12	4			
	2012-13	7			
	2013-14	10			
	Total number	28			



Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			2%	
		STEM			5%	
		Arts			4%	
		Classical			7%	
		Purposely diverse			1%	
		Single sex			2%	
		International/Foreign language			15%	
		Montessori/Waldorf			15%	
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			5%	
		Military			1%	
		Vocational training			1%	
		Public policy/Citizenship			1%	
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			54%	
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		99	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	5	9	2	6
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	7	25	4	16
		NFPs	12	123	10	78
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			1,761	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			4	
		Number of virtual charter schools			3	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			2	

# Mississippi



Mississippi enacted its charter school law in 2010. In our annual rankings of state charter school laws in 2011, 2012, and 2013, it ranked as the weakest law in the country. In 2013, Mississippi enacted a significant overhaul of its law. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, Mississippi's law ranked #17 out of 43.

Under its previous charter school law, the state allowed only up to 12 chronically low-performing schools to convert to charter status; provided weak autonomy, accountability, and funding; and required applicants to apply to the state board of education. No charter schools opened under this law.

Under its new charter school law, the state allows up to 15 start-ups and conversions per year; provides strong autonomy, accountability, and operational and categorical funding; and creates a new state authorizer to be the state's sole authorizing entity. The state's first two charter schools opened in August 2015.

Potential areas of improvement in Mississippi's law include addressing open enrollment, clarifying teacher certification requirements, providing charter 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.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Mississippi's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.



# Missouri

## RANKING:

# #10

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 68

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Missouri enacted its charter public school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #30 out of 43. Missouri's law is largely cap-free and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters. However, it includes multiple authorizing options in some districts but not others, and provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Missouri's charter public school movement ranked #10 out of 18, scoring 68 points out of 132.

Missouri scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 25 public charters opened in Missouri, a 9.8 percent average annual open rate.
- In 2012-13, 36 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in match (22 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 15 percentage points (from 40 percent to 25 percent).

Missouri scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 2 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, only 2 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2014-15, only two communities in Missouri had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Missouri:

- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (59 percentage points more) than traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools (33 percentage points more).

- During 2012-13, 98 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 76 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 22 charter public schools closed in Missouri, an 11.6 percent average annual closure rate.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (14 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system stayed the same (45 percent).
- In 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- As of 2014-15, one local school board had authorized one charter public school (2 percent of the state's total number of public charters), and 11 higher educational institutions had authorized 51 charter public schools (98 percent).
- In 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Missouri.

## Concluding Thoughts

- Even though Missouri's law needs some improvements, its charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*.
- In Missouri, charter public schools have been largely confined to Kansas City and St. Louis; as a result, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools statewide.
- Missouri also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- We encourage the state to promote the expansion of charter public schools beyond Kansas City and St. Louis.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Growth Indicators									
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools				51	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters				2			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students				19,737	0	3	0
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students				2			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4	
		White	15	74	-59				
		Black	66	15	51				
		Hispanic	14	5	9				
		Asian	2	3	-1				
		Other	3	3	0				
		Total minority	85	26	59				
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	82	49	33	2	2	4	
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		Total special student populations	82	49	33				
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	98	15	83	2	2	4	
		Suburb	2	24	-22				
		Town	0	20	-20				
		Rural	0	41	-41				
		Total nonsuburban	98	76	22				
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	2				1	1	1	
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	9	Average annual open rate		9.8%	3	3	9	
	2011-12	6							
	2012-13	4							
	2013-14	3							
	2014-15	3							
	Total number	25							
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	2	Average annual closure rate		11.6%	2	3	6	
	2010-11	2							
	2011-12	12							
	2012-13	5							
	2013-14	1							
	Total number	22							

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			8%	2	2	4
		STEM			4%			
		Arts			4%			
		Classical			0			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			8%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			9%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			4%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			0			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			36%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14				2	3	6
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	22				3	3	9
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		90 to 100	28	19	-9			
		80 to 89	17	26	9			
		Total	45	45	0			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	4	3	12
		60 to 69	5	6	1			
		Less than 60	35	19	-16			
		Total	40	25	-15			
Totals		Grand Total Points			68	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		0
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	1	1	1	2		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	11	51	5	98		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0			
		Number of virtual charter schools			0			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0			



# Nevada

## RANKING:

# #12

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 65

POINTS  
(out of 132)

## Law Summary

Nevada enacted its charter public school law in 1997. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #8 out of 43. Nevada does not cap charter 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 charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Nevada's charter public school movement ranked #12 out of 18, scoring 65 points out of 132.

Nevada scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- During 2012-13, 82 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 72 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 19 public charters opened in Nevada, a 10 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, four charter public schools closed in Nevada, a 2.4 percent average annual closure rate.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 12 percentage points (from 27 percent to 39 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 3 percentage points (from 34 percent to 31 percent).

Nevada scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Nevada served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (16 percentage points less) than traditional public schools.
- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Nevada served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (19 percentage points less) than traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, no communities in Nevada had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- In 2012-13, 29 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.



- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (108 fewer days in reading and 137 fewer days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Nevada:

- In 2014-15, 6 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 6 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2014-15, 100 percent of the charter public schools in Nevada were start-ups.
- As of 2014-15, three local school boards had authorized 16 charter public schools (42 percent of the state's total number of public charters), and the independent state charter board had authorized 22 public charters (58 percent).
- In 2013-14, three full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Nevada, serving 6,836 students (26 percent of the state's charter public school population).

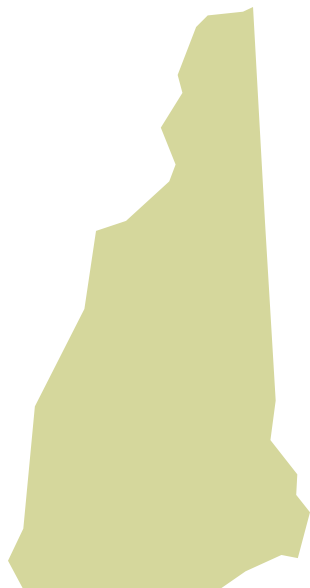
## Concluding Thoughts

- While Nevada's charters did not perform as well as their peers in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*, the most recent data within that report are from 2010-11. Since that time, Nevada charter school supporters have made significant changes to its law (including in 2015). As a result, Nevada now has a relatively good charter school law, one that will better promote the growth of high-quality charters and the closure of chronically low-performing charters, particularly for low-income students of color. In fact, more current data than the CREDO study show that the percentage of charters in the top two categories of the state's accountability system is increasing, while the percentage of charters in the bottom category of the state's accountability system is decreasing.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			38	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			6			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			28,975	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			6			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	0	2	0
		White	51	35	16			
		Black	16	10	6			
		Hispanic	21	41	-20			
		Asian	5	6	-1			
		Other	7	8	-1			
		Total minority	49	65	-16			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	35	54	-19	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	35	54	-19			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	73	41	32	3	2	6
		Suburb	18	28	-10			
		Town	7	13	-6			
		Rural	2	18	-16			
		Total nonsuburban	82	72	10			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0				0	1	0
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		10.0%	3	3	9
	2011-12	8						
	2012-13	5						
	2013-14	2						
	2014-15	4						
	Total number	19						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		2.4%	3	3	9
	2010-11	1						
	2011-12	2						
	2012-13	0						
	2013-14	0						
	Total number	4						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			0	4	2	8
		STEM			15%			
		Arts			15%			
		Classical			0			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			0			
		Montessori/Waldorf			35%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			10%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			15%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			70%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-108				0	3	0
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-137				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	4	3	12
		5	9	21	12			
		4	18	18	0			
		Total	27	39	12			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	3	3	9
		2	27	23	-4			
		1	7	8	1			
		Total	34	31	-3			
Totals		Grand Total Points			65	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		0
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	3	16	5	42		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	1	22	22	58		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			6,836			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			26			
		Number of virtual charter schools			3			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			9			

# New Hampshire



New Hampshire enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, New Hampshire's law ranked #33 out of 43. While the 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.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. New Hampshire's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 23 charter public schools and 2,548 charter public school students in New Hampshire, constituting 5 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in New Hampshire served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (2 percentage points more) but a smaller percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (17 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 70 percent of the state's charter public schools were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 73 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 13 new charter public schools opened in New Hampshire, an average annual open rate of 11.3 percent.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, one charter public school closed in New Hampshire, an average annual closure rate of 1.1 percent.

- In 2012-13, 70 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- During 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- In 2014-15, one local school district had authorized one school (4 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools) and the state board of education had authorized 22 schools (96 percent).
- In 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in New Hampshire.

# New Hampshire

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			23
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			5
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			2,548
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			1
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	86	88	-2
		Black	2	2	0
		Hispanic	2	4	-2
		Asian	8	3	5
		Other	2	3	-1
		Total minority	14	12	2
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	11	28	-17
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	11	28	-17
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	26	9	17
		Suburb	30	27	3
		Town	29	14	15
		Rural	15	50	-35
		Total nonsuburban	70	73	-3
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		11.3%
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	6			
	2013-14	2			
	2014-15	4			
	Total number	13			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		1.1%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	1			

Indicator	Year	Data					
Innovation Indicators							
9. Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2012-13	No Excuses			0		
		STEM			15%		
		Arts			15%		
		Classical			0		
		Purposely diverse			0		
		Single sex			0		
		International/Foreign language			0		
		Montessori/Waldorf			35%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			10%		
		Military			0		
		Vocational training			15%		
		Public policy/Citizenship			0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			70%		
		Quality Indicators					
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-					
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-					
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-					
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-					
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored							
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		0
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer	
		LEAs	1	1	1	4	
		SEAs	1	22	22	96	
		ICBs	-	-	-	0	
		NEGs	-	-	-	0	
		HEIs	-	-	-	0	
		NFPs	-	-	-	0	
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0		
		Number of virtual charter schools			0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0		

# New Jersey



New Jersey's charter public school law was enacted in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #36 out of 43. New Jersey's law does not cap charter 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.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. New Jersey's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 3 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (40 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (29 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, 62 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 21 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, four communities in New Jersey had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.



- In 2012-13, 52 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 46 public charters opened in New Jersey, a 10.6 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 19 public charters closed in New Jersey, a 4.4 percent average annual closure rate.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited significantly higher academic growth (43 more days in reading and 58 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- During 2014-15, 98 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups, and 2 percent were conversions.
- The only authorizer in New Jersey is the state department of education. As of 2014-15, the state department of education had authorized 87 charter public schools.
- In 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in New Jersey.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			87
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			3
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			37,259
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			3
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	10	50	-40
		Black	55	15	40
		Hispanic	29	24	5
		Asian	5	9	-4
		Other	1	2	-1
		Total minority	90	50	40
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	66	37	29
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	66	37	29
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	58	9	49
		Suburb	38	79	-41
		Town	1	3	-2
		Rural	3	9	-6
		Total nonsuburban	62	21	41
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	4			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	8	Average annual open rate		10.6%
	2011-12	13			
	2012-13	14			
	2013-14	6			
	2014-15	5			
	Total number	46			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	2	Average annual closure rate		4.4%
	2010-11	2			
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	7			
	2013-14	5			
	Total number	19			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		23%		
		STEM		4%		
		Arts		5%		
		Classical		1%		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		1%		
		International/Foreign language		2%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		18%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		0		
		Public policy/Citizenship		2%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		52%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	43				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	58				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		98	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	-
		SEAs	1	87	87	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# New Mexico

## RANKING:

# #16

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 48

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

New Mexico enacted its charter public school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #16 out of 43. New Mexico's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of accountability but contains some caps on charter school growth and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

New Mexico's charter public school movement ranked #16 out of 18, scoring 48 points out of 132.

New Mexico scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 11 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2012-13, 60 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

New Mexico scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (9 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in New Mexico served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (17 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.

- In 2014-15, only two communities in New Mexico had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in math (29 fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students, while performing the same in reading.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 5 percentage points (from 52 percent to 47 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 15 percentage points (from 18 percent to 33 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in New Mexico:

- In 2013-14, 7 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2012-13, 86 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 90 percent of traditional public schools.

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 30 public charters opened in New Mexico, a 6.2 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, five charter public schools closed, a 1.1 percent average annual closure rate.
- During 2014-15, 99 percent of charter public schools in New Mexico were start-ups and 1 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 18 local school boards had authorized 42 charter public schools (43 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools) and the state's public education commission had authorized 55 charter public schools (57 percent).
- In 2013-14, one full-time virtual charter public school operated in New Mexico, serving 481 students (2 percent of the state's charter public school population).

### Concluding Thoughts

- As a result of significant changes made to its law in 2011, New Mexico has a relatively good charter school law, providing the foundation from which to improve the health of its charter school movement.
  - In New Mexico, a relatively high percentage of the state's public schools are charters, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
  - New Mexico also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- While there are many successful charter public schools in New Mexico, the performance of the movement as a whole needs to improve, as demonstrated by the four quality metrics in this report. We encourage the state to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters.
  - We also encourage the state to explore why charter public schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools.

# New Mexico

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			97	3	3	9
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			11			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			22,715	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			7			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	1	2	2
		White	33	24	9			
		Black	3	2	1			
		Hispanic	56	61	-5			
		Asian	1	1	0			
		Other	7	12	-5			
		Total minority	67	76	-9			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	51	68	-17	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	51	68	-17			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	53	22	31	2	2	4
		Suburb	14	10	4			
		Town	17	30	-13			
		Rural	16	38	-22			
		Total nonsuburban	86	90	-4			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	2				1	1	1
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	9	Average annual open rate		6.2%	2	3	6.0
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	11						
	2013-14	3						
	2014-15	4						
	Total number	30						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		1.1%	2	3	6
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	2						
	2013-14	2						
	Total number	5						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			2%	4	2	8
		STEM			5%			
		Arts			6%			
		Classical			3%			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			1%			
		International/Foreign language			10%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			15%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			14%			
		Military			1%			
		Vocational training			7%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			60%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	0				1	3	3
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	1	3	3
		A	22	22	0			
		B	30	25	-5			
		Total	52	47	-5			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	0	3	0
		D	9	24	15			
		F	9	9	0			
		Total	18	33	15			
Totals		Grand Total Points			48	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			99	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		1
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	18	42	2	43		
		SEAs	1	55	55	57		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			481			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			2			
		Number of virtual charter schools			1			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			1			

# New York



New York enacted its charter public school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #7 out of 43. New York's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, but it also contains a cap of 460 start-up charter public schools and provides inequitable funding.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. New York's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in New York served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (42 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in New York served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (28 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 96 percent of public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 67 percent of traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, three communities in New York had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.



- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 118 public charters opened in New York, a 9.5 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 11 charter public schools closed, a .9 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 43 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited significantly higher academic growth (36 more days in reading and 79 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- During 2014-15, 98 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 2 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, two local school districts had authorized 72 charter public schools (29 percent of the state's total number of public charters), the state board of regents had authorized 58 charters (23 percent), and one higher education institution had authorized 118 charters (48 percent).
- During 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in New York.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			248
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			5
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			106,483
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			4
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	6	48	-42
		Black	59	17	42
		Hispanic	31	24	7
		Asian	2	9	-7
		Other	2	2	0
		Total minority	94	52	42
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	75	47	28
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	75	47	28
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	95	42	53
		Suburb	4	33	-29
		Town	0	8	-8
		Rural	1	17	-16
		Total nonsuburban	96	67	29
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	3			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	32	Average annual open rate		9.5%
	2011-12	16			
	2012-13	27			
	2013-14	26			
	2014-15	17			
	Total number	118			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	3	Average annual closure rate		0.9%
	2010-11	2			
	2011-12	2			
	2012-13	2			
	2013-14	2			
	Total number	11			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		15%		
		STEM		6%		
		Arts		3%		
		Classical		1%		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		7%		
		International/Foreign language		4%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		8%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		3%		
		Military		0.5%		
		Vocational training		2%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		2%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		43%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	36				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	79				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		98	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	2	72	36	29
		SEAs	1	58	58	23
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	1	118	118	48
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# North Carolina



North Carolina enacted its charter public school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #14 out of 43. North Carolina's law does not cap charter 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.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. North Carolina's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 6 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students, especially Hispanic students (9 percentage points less overall and 8 percentage points less for Hispanic students), when compared with traditional public schools.
- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction reports that, in 2013-14, charter public schools served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (27 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools. However, according to the North Carolina Public Charter School Association, these numbers are skewed because, while some North Carolina charter schools serve free and reduced-price lunches under the federal lunch program, numerous others serve this same population at their own expense, using no federal money. As a result, the percentage of charter public school students who were eligible for and received free and reduced-price lunches was higher than the percentage actually reported to the state.

- In 2012-13, 81 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 81 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, three communities in North Carolina had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 59 public charters opened, a 7.8 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2014-15, four charter public schools closed, a .6 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 37 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading (22 more days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in math (seven fewer days), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.<sup>4</sup>
- During 2014-15, 98 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 2 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, the state board of education had authorized all of the state's 148 charter public schools.
- In 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in North Carolina.

<sup>4</sup> More recent data from the state's accountability system provide some helpful nuances. According to 2013-14 state test results, 77 percent of charters equaled or exceeded expected growth versus 72 percent of district schools. In addition, approximately two-thirds of the charter public schools in North Carolina either were comparable to or exceeded the composite performance in grade-level proficiency of the schools in their respective school districts. Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, *Report to the General Assembly: Annual Charter Schools Report*, Raleigh, North Carolina: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, January 2016).

# North Carolina

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			151
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			6
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students 2014-15		Number of charter public school students			70,079
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			4
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	60	51	9
		Black	26	26	0
		Hispanic	7	15	-8
		Asian	3	3	0
		Other	4	5	-1
		Total minority	40	49	-9
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	28	55	-27
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	28	55	-27
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	44	26	18
		Suburb	19	19	0
		Town	13	13	0
		Rural	24	42	-18
		Total nonsuburban	81	81	0
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	3			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	3	Average annual open rate		7.8%
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	8			
	2013-14	22			
	2014-15	25			
	Total number	59			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		0.6%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	2			
	2013-14	1			
	Total number	4			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		8%		
		STEM		5%		
		Arts		8%		
		Classical		4%		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		4%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		13%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		1%		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		1%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		37%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	22				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		98	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	-
		SEAs	1	148	148	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Ohio

## RANKING:

# #13

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 64

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Ohio enacted its charter public school law in 1997. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #23 out of 43. Ohio's law allows multiple authorizing entities, provides sufficient autonomy, and provides increased accountability to charter schools and authorizers, but 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.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Ohio's charter public school movement ranked #13 out of 18, scoring 64 points out of 132.

Ohio scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 11 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- During 2012-13, 83 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 61 percent of traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, eight communities in Ohio had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 154 public charters opened in Ohio, an 8 percent average annual open rate. However, only 11 of those opened in 2014-15, a 70 percent drop from the average yearly open rate for the previous four years.

- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 91 charter public schools closed, a 4.6 percent average annual closure rate. However, in 2013-14, the number of charter schools that closed increased by 41 percent as compared with the average number of closures over the previous four years.
- In 2012-13, 39 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

Ohio scored relatively low on the following indicator:

- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (14 fewer days in reading and 43 fewer days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students. However, it is important to note that these numbers are likely somewhat skewed because of the large presence of underperforming full-time virtual charter public schools in Ohio.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Ohio:

- In 2014-15, 7 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.



- In 2013-14, Ohio's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (33 percentage points more) as compared with the traditional public schools. According to the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, these numbers are somewhat skewed by the inclusion of data from full-time virtual charter public schools. If we were to only include data for brick-and-mortar charters, the percentage of racial and ethnic minority students in charters would be even higher than the results we show here.
  - During 2013-14, charter public schools in Ohio served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (30 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
  - Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 1 percentage point (from 12 percent to 11 percent).
  - Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 1 percentage point (from 64 percent to 65 percent).
  - In 2014-15, 82 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 18 percent were conversions.
  - As of 2014-15, 57 local school boards had authorized 168 charter public schools (44 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools), the state department of education had authorized 19 public charters (5 percent), four higher education institutions had authorized 54 public charters (14 percent), and six nonprofit organizations had authorized 142 public charters (37 percent).
  - In 2013-14, 13 full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Ohio, serving 36,899 students (30 percent of the state's charter public school population).
- ### Concluding Thoughts
- As a result of changes made in 2015, Ohio's charter school law is now in a much better position to support high-quality charter public schools. However, it still needs improvement to allow brick-and-mortar start-up charters statewide and to provide equitable funding and facilities support.
  - In Ohio, a relatively high percentage of the state's public schools are charters, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
  - In Ohio, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
  - Ohio also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
  - While many successful charter public schools operate in Ohio, the performance of the movement as a whole needs to improve, as demonstrated by the four quality metrics in this report.
  - We encourage the state to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters and to shut down low-performing authorizers. Changes made to the state's charter school law in 2015 should help these efforts.

5 Center for Research on Education Outcomes, *National Charter School Study 2015* (Stanford, CA: Author, 2015).

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			384	3	3	9
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			11			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			123,844	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			7			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	42	75	-33			
		Black	45	14	31			
		Hispanic	6	4	2			
		Asian	1	2	-1			
		Other	6	5	1			
		Total minority	58	25	33			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	74	44	30	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	74	44	30			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	73	17	56	2	2	4
		Suburb	17	39	-22			
		Town	6	15	-9			
		Rural	4	29	-25			
		Total nonsuburban	83	61	22			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	8				3	1	3
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	38	Average annual open rate		8.0%	3	3	9
	2011-12	29						
	2012-13	31						
	2013-14	45						
	2014-15	11						
	Total number	154						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	19	Average annual closure rate		4.6%	3	3	9
	2010-11	14						
	2011-12	12						
	2012-13	19						
	2013-14	27						
	Total number	91						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			11%	2	2	4
		STEM			8%			
		Arts			3%			
		Classical			0			
		Purposely diverse			0.3%			
		Single sex			0.3%			
		International/Foreign language			2%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			2%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			14%			
		Military			0.3%			
		Vocational training			4%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			39%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-14				0	3	0
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-43				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		A	2	1	-1			
		B	10	10	0			
		Total	12	11	-1			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		D	58	57	-1			
		F	6	8	2			
		Total	64	65	1			
Totals		Grand Total Points			64	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			82	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		18
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	57	168	3	44		
		SEAs	1	19	19	5		
		ICBs	-	-	-	0		
		NEGs	-	-	-	0		
		HEIs	4	54	14	14		
		NFPs	6	142	24	37		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			36,899			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			30			
		Number of virtual charter schools			13			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3			

# Oklahoma



Oklahoma enacted its charter school law in 1999. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #19 out of 43. Oklahoma's law provides sufficient room for growth statewide, includes multiple authorizing options, and provides adequate autonomy and accountability. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Oklahoma's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 27 charter public schools and 16,585 charter public school students in Oklahoma, constituting 2 percent of the state's public schools and 2 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Oklahoma served more racial and ethnic minority students (13 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools but fewer free and reduced-price lunch students (15 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 96 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 88 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, one community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 11 new charter public schools opened in Oklahoma, an average annual open rate of 8.1 percent.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, three charter public schools closed in Oklahoma, an average annual closure rate of 2.4 percent.
- In 2012-13, 64 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 48 percent to 50 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 32 percent to 34 percent).
- During 2014-15, 83 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 17 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, four local school districts had authorized 18 charter public schools (67 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools), two higher educational institutions had authorized six charter public schools (22 percent), one noneducational governmental entity had authorized one charter school (4 percent), and the state board of education had authorized two charter schools (7 percent).
- During 2013-14, five virtual charter public schools operated in Oklahoma, serving 8,294 students (62 percent of the state's charter public school population).

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			27
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			2
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			16,585
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			2
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	39	51	-12
		Black	22	9	13
		Hispanic	26	15	11
		Asian	1	2	-1
		Other	12	23	-11
		Total minority	61	49	12
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	47	62	-15
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	47	62	-15
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	88	14	74
		Suburb	4	12	-8
		Town	4	23	-19
		Rural	4	51	-47
		Total nonsuburban	96	88	8
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		8.1%
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	3			
	2013-14	2			
	2014-15	3			
	Total number	11			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		2.4%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	1			
	Total number	3			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		14%		
		STEM		23%		
		Arts		27%		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		5%		
		Montessori/Waldorf		0		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		5%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		64%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	
		A	36	23	-13	
		B	12	27	15	
		Total	48	50	2	
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	
		D	16	15	-1	
		F	16	19	3	
		Total	32	34	2	
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		83	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	17
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	4	18	5	67
		SEAs	1	2	2	7
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	1	1	1	4
		HEIs	2	6	3	22
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			8,294	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			62	
		Number of virtual charter schools			5	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			20	

# Oregon

## RANKING:

# #18

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 45

POINTS  
(out of 132)



### Law Summary

Oregon enacted its charter public school law in 1999. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #28 out of 43. The law does not cap charter school growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy, but it also includes limited authorizing options, insufficient accountability, and inadequate funding.

### Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Oregon's charter public school movement ranked #18 out of 18, scoring 45 points out of 132.

Oregon scored relatively well on the following indicator:

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 6 percentage points (from 30 percent to 24 percent).

Oregon scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- During 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (14 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.

- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Oregon served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (28 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, only one community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (22 days less in reading and 50 days less in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Oregon:

- In 2014-15, 9 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2012-13, 80 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 79 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 35 public charters opened in Oregon, a 5.6 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 12 charter public schools closed in Oregon, a 1.9 percent average annual closure rate.



- In 2012-13, 42 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 1 percentage point (from 51 percent to 50 percent).
- During 2014-15, 84 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 16 percent were conversions.
- Oregon law provides that local school boards are the only authorizers of first resort. If a local school board denies a proposal, an applicant may appeal the decision of the local school board to the state board of education or submit a proposal to an institution of higher education. If one of these entities approves the application, it becomes the authorizer. As of 2014-15, 84 local school boards had approved 121 charter public schools (97 percent of the state's charter public schools) and the state board of education had authorized four charter public schools (3 percent).
- In 2013-14, three full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Oregon, educating 3,947 students (2 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- As part of improving the health of its charter public school movement, Oregon needs to strengthen its law, particularly related to providing additional authorizing options, strengthening accountability, and ensuring equitable funding and facilities support.
- While many successful charter public schools operate in Oregon, the performance of the movement as a whole needs to improve, as demonstrated by CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*. We encourage the state to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters.
- We also encourage the state to explore why charter public schools serve lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			125	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			9			
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			29,791	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			5			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	0	2	0
		White	78	64	14			
		Black	2	2	0			
		Hispanic	10	23	-13			
		Asian	2	4	-2			
		Other	8	7	1			
		Total minority	22	36	-14			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	24	52	-28	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	24	52	-28			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	19	28	-9	2	2	4
		Suburb	20	21	-1			
		Town	19	25	-6			
		Rural	42	26	16			
		Total nonsuburban	80	79	1			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2013-14	1				1	1	1
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	14	Average annual open rate		5.6%	2	3	6
	2011-12	9						
	2012-13	8						
	2013-14	2						
	2014-15	2						
	Total number	35						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	8	Average annual closure rate		1.9%	2	3	6
	2010-11	2						
	2011-12	0						
	2012-13	1						
	2013-14	1						
	Total number	12						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			0	2	2	4
		STEM			4%			
		Arts			3%			
		Classical			2%			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			7%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			24%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			0			
		Military			1%			
		Vocational training			7%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			42%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-22				0	3	0
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-50				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		Purple	17	11	-6			
		Blue	34	39	5			
		Total	51	50	-1			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	3	3	9
		Orange	17	15	-2			
		Red	13	9	-4			
		Total	30	24	-6			
Totals		Grand Total Points			45	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			84	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		16
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	74	121	2	97		
		SEAs	1	4	4	3		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			3,947			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			14			
		Number of virtual charter schools			3			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			2			

# Pennsylvania

## RANKING:

# #15

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 54

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Pennsylvania enacted its charter public school law in 1997. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #27 out of 43. While the law does not cap charter school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charters, it allows primarily local school district authorizers and provides insufficient accountability and inadequate funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Pennsylvania's charter public school movement ranked #15 out of 18, scoring 54 points out of 132.

Pennsylvania scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Pennsylvania served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (15 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 50 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

Pennsylvania scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth in both reading and math (29 days less and 50 days less, respectively), on average, when compared with traditional public school students in Pennsylvania.

- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 4 percentage points (from 18 percent to 14 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 6 percentage points (from 60 percent to 66 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Pennsylvania:

- In 2014-15, 6 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 7 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (36 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 75 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 53 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, four communities in the state had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters.

- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 58 public charters opened in Pennsylvania, a 6.6 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 11 charter public schools closed in Pennsylvania, a 1.3 percent average annual closure rate.
- During 2014-15, 91 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 9 percent were conversions.
- Pennsylvania law provides the following potential authorizers: local school boards, two or more local boards for regional charters, and the state department of education for virtual charter schools. As of 2014-15, 48 local school boards had authorized 162 charter public schools (92 percent of the state's charter public schools) and the state department of education had authorized 14 virtual charter public schools (8 percent).
- In 2013-14, 14 full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Pennsylvania, serving 34,251 students (27 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- In Pennsylvania, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- Pennsylvania also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- While many successful charter public schools operate in Pennsylvania, the performance of the movement as a whole needs to improve, as demonstrated by the four quality metrics in this report.
- To improve the quality of the movement in Pennsylvania, we encourage the state to change its law to strengthen the competency of current authorizers, create additional high-quality authorizing options, and strengthen its accountability policies.

# Pennsylvania

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			176	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			6			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			132,531	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			7			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	36	72	-36			
		Black	44	13	31			
		Hispanic	14	9	5			
		Asian	3	3	0			
		Other	3	3	0			
		Total minority	64	28	36			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	57	42	15	4	2	8
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	57	42	15			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	67	17	50	2	2	4
		Suburb	25	47	-22			
		Town	2	10	-8			
		Rural	6	26	-20			
		Total nonsuburban	75	53	22			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	4				2	1	2
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	16	Average annual open rate		6.6%	2	3	6
	2011-12	18						
	2012-13	14						
	2013-14	6						
	2014-15	4						
	Total number	58						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		1.3%	2	3	6
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	5						
	2013-14	4						
	Total number	11						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			14%	3	2	6
		STEM			9%			
		Arts			8%			
		Classical			1%			
		Purposely diverse			0			
		Single sex			2%			
		International/Foreign language			7%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			12%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			3%			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			5%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			50%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29				0	3	0
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-50				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	1	3	3
		90 to 100+	2	2	0			
		80 to 89.9	16	12	-4			
		Total	18	14	-4			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	1	3	3
		60 to 69.9	23	28	5			
		Less than 60	37	38	1			
		Total	60	66	6			
Totals		Grand Total Points			54	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			91	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		9
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	48	162	3	92		
		SEAs	1	14	14	8		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			34,251			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			27			
		Number of virtual charter schools			15			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			9			

# Rhode Island

## RANKING:

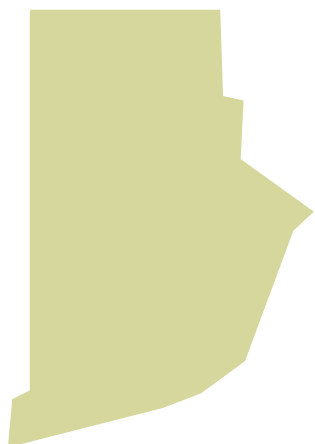
# #8

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 71

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Rhode Island enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #35 out of 43. The law provides a fair amount of accountability for charters but caps charter growth, allows only one authorizing option, and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Rhode Island's charter public school movement ranked #8 out of 18, scoring 71 points out of 132.

Rhode Island scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2012-13, 52 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 36 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 13 public charters opened in Rhode Island, a 12.4 percent average annual open rate.
- In 2012-13, 61 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (86 more days in reading and 105 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2014-15, only one community in the state had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, no charters closed in Rhode Island.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 28 percentage points (from 70 percent to 42 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 6 percentage points (from 6 percent to 12 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Rhode Island:

- In 2014-15, 6 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2013-14, the state's charter public schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (37 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.



- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Rhode Island served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (21 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- During 2014-15, 95 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 5 percent were conversions.
- The only authorizer in Rhode Island is the state board of education, and only after a local school board or the state commissioner of elementary and secondary education has approved the school. As of 2014-15, the state board of education had authorized 21 charter public schools.
- In 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Rhode Island.

## Concluding Thoughts

- Rhode Island's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results, as demonstrated in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*, in spite of a law that needs some improvements.
- Rhode Island has likely achieved its strong results through a combination of its one authorizer implementing solid practices that are not required by the state's charter school law and a select number of high-performing charters smartly replicating and expanding.
- It is important to note that Rhode Island toughened its standards and tests in 2013-14, which caused the decrease in the percentage of charters performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system as well as the increase in the percentage of charters performing in the bottom two categories.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			21	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			6			
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			6,433	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			5			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	26	63	-37			
		Black	16	8	8			
		Hispanic	52	22	30			
		Asian	2	3	-1			
		Other	4	4	0			
		Total minority	74	37	37			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	67	46	21	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	67	46	21			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	39	23	16	3	2	6
		Suburb	48	65	-17			
		Town	0	0	0			
		Rural	13	13	0			
		Total nonsuburban	52	36	16			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	1				1	1	1
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	3	Average annual open rate		12.4%	4	3	12
	2011-12	2						
	2012-13	0						
	2013-14	5						
	2014-15	3						
	Total number	13						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0				0	3	0
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	0						
	2012-13	0						
	2013-14	0						
	Total number	0	Average annual closure rate	0.0%				

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Innovation Indicators									
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				0	4	2	8
		STEM				6%			
		Arts				11%			
		Classical				0			
		Purposely diverse				17%			
		Single sex				0			
		International/Foreign language				6%			
		Montessori/Waldorf				6%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				0			
		Military				0			
		Vocational training				17%			
		Public policy/Citizenship				0			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				61%			
Quality Indicators									
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	86				4	3	12	
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	105				4	3	12	
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	0	3	0	
		Commended	23	18	-5				
		Leading	47	24	-23				
		Total	70	42	-28				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	1	3	3	
		Focus	6	12	6				
		Priority	0	0	0				
		Total	6	12	6				
Totals		Grand Total Points			71	Total Possible Points		132	
Items Reported but Not Scored									
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			95	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		5	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer			
		LEAs	-	-	-	-			
		SEAs	1	21	21	100			
		ICBs	-	-	-	-			
		NEGs	-	-	-	-			
		HEIs	-	-	-	-			
		NFPs	-	-	-	-			
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students				0			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools				0			
		Number of virtual charter schools				0			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools				0			

# South Carolina



South Carolina enacted its charter public school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #13 out of 43. The law does not cap charter school growth, gives a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, and provides multiple authorizing options to charter applicants. However, it provides inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. South Carolina's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 66 charter public schools and 27,191 charter public school students in South Carolina, constituting 5 percent of the state's public schools and 4 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in South Carolina served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (13 percentage points less) and a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (16 percentage points less) than traditional public schools.
- During 2012-13, 63 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 72 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 36 new charter public schools opened in South Carolina, an average annual open rate of 10.9 percent.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, eight charter public schools closed in South Carolina, an average annual closure rate of 2.7 percent.

- In 2012-13, 41 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 3 percentage points (from 56 percent to 53 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 6 percentage points (from 32 percent to 38 percent).
- In 2014-15, 95 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 5 percent were conversions.
- As of 2014-15, 16 local school districts had authorized 35 charter public schools (53 percent of the state's total number of charter public schools) and one independent state charter board had authorized 31 charter public schools (47 percent).
- During 2013-14, six full-time virtual charter public schools operated in South Carolina, serving 7,841 students (34 percent of the state's charter public school population).

# South Carolina

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			66
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			5
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			27,191
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			4
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	65	52	13
		Black	26	35	-9
		Hispanic	5	8	-3
		Asian	1	1	0
		Other	3	4	-1
		Total minority	35	48	-13
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	42	58	-16
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	42	58	-16
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	33	17	16
		Suburb	36	28	8
		Town	10	14	-4
		Rural	21	41	-20
		Total nonsuburban	64	72	-8
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	8	Average annual open rate		10.9%
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	8			
	2013-14	7			
	2014-15	10			
	Total number	36			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	2	Average annual closure rate		2.7%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	3			
	2013-14	3			
	Total number	8			

Indicator	Year	Data						
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				0		
		STEM				4%		
		Arts				2%		
		Classical				0		
		Purposely diverse				0		
		Single sex				6%		
		International/Foreign language				2%		
		Montessori/Waldorf				29%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				4%		
		Military				0		
		Vocational training				2%		
		Public policy/Citizenship				2%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				41%		
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-						
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-						
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference			
		A	50	40	-10			
		B	6	13	7			
		Total	56	53	-3			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference			
		D	6	15	9			
		F	26	23	-3			
		Total	32	38	6			
Totals		Grand Total Points				Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			95	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		5
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	16	35	2	53		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	1	31	31	47		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			7,841			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			34			
		Number of virtual charter schools			6			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			10			

# Tennessee



Tennessee enacted its charter public school law in 2002. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #34 out of 43. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it primarily allows only local school district authorizers and provides insufficient autonomy and accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *2013 National Charter School Study* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Tennessee's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- In 2014-15, 2 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in the state served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (63 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Tennessee served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (26 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 95 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 84 percent of traditional public schools.
- During 2013-14, no community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters.



- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 66 public charters opened in Tennessee, a 16.5 percent average annual growth rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, seven charter public schools closed in Tennessee, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 57 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited higher academic growth (86 more days in reading and 72 more days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students in Tennessee.
- During 2014-15, 79 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 21 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, local school districts and the state's Achievement School District (ASD) could authorize charter public schools. As of that year, five local school districts had authorized 63 charter public schools (79 percent of the state's public charters) and the ASD had authorized 17 charter public schools (21 percent).
- During 2013-14, no full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Tennessee.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			80
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			4
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			22,565
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			2
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	4	67	-63
		Black	87	22	65
		Hispanic	8	8	0
		Asian	0.5	2	-1.5
		Other	0.5	1	-1
		Total minority	96	33	63
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	84	58	26
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	84	58	26
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	92	32	60
		Suburb	5	16	-11
		Town	0	17	-17
		Rural	3	35	-32
		Total nonsuburban	95	84	11
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	8	Average annual open rate		16.5%
	2011-12	11			
	2012-13	8			
	2013-14	25			
	2014-15	14			
	Total number	66			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average annual closure rate		2.0%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	5			
	Total number	7			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		30%		
		STEM		17%		
		Arts		4%		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		2%		
		Single sex		9%		
		International/Foreign language		0		
		Montessori/Waldorf		0		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		2%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		4%		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		57%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	86				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	72				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		79	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	5	63	13	79
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	1	17	17	21
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Texas

## RANKING:

# #11

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 68

POINTS  
(out of 132)



## Law Summary

Texas enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #25 out of 43.

Texas' law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state-authorized versus district-authorized charters. The requirements for state-authorized charters are more defined than those for district-authorized charters (for example, school autonomy and the charter application process for state-authorized charters are set by statute and regulation). The autonomy and the charter application process for district-authorized charters depend on the particular district. In fact, if our analysis focused on only the provisions governing state-authorized charters, Texas' law would place in our top 10. However, since our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charters, Texas ranks #25.

## Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Texas' charter public school movement ranked #11 out of 18, scoring 68 points out of 132.

Texas scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2013-14, charter public schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (14 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.

- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Texas served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (11 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 82 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 75 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2014-15, 16 communities in Texas had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 70 charter campuses closed in Texas, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 58 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.

Texas scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (22 fewer days in reading and 29 fewer days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students in Texas.

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Texas:

- In 2014-15, 8 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 268 charters opened in Texas, a 7.4 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 79 percent to 81 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 2 percentage points (from 21 percent to 19 percent).
- During 2014-15, 89 percent of the state's public charters were start-ups, and 11 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, Texas law allowed applicants to apply to either local school boards or the state board of education. As of 2014-15, 16 local school boards had authorized 75 charter public campuses (10 percent of the state's charter public campuses) and the state board of education had authorized 643 charter public campuses (90 percent).
- In 2014-15, two full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Texas, serving 9,012 students (4 percent of the state's charter public school population).

## Concluding Thoughts

- Texas has a relatively good charter law, particularly as it relates to state-authorized charters. However, the law most needs to provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charter students.
- In Texas, charter public schools serve a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools, showing that charters are serving those students who most need a better public school option.
- Texas also has a relatively high percentage of special-focus schools, showing that charters are providing a diverse array of options for students and educators.
- While Texas' charters did not perform as well as their peers in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013*, the most recent data within that report are from 2010-11. Since that time, Texas charter school supporters, led by the Texas Charter Schools Association, have implemented several efforts to improve achievement. Taken together, these changes will better promote the growth of high-quality charters and the closure of chronically low-performing charters. In fact, more current data than the CREDO study show the percentage of charters in the top two categories of the state's accountability system is increasing, while the percentage of charters in the bottom category of the state's accountability system is decreasing.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Growth Indicators								
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			721	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			8			
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			264,606	1	3	3
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			5			
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	4	2	8
		White	16	30	-14			
		Black	21	13	8			
		Hispanic	58	51	7			
		Asian	3	4	-1			
		Other	2	2	0			
		Total minority	84	70	14			
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	71	60	11	4	2	8
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	71	60	11			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	69	35	34	3	2	6
		Suburb	18	25	-7			
		Town	5	14	-9			
		Rural	8	26	-18			
		Total nonsuburban	82	75	7			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	16				4	1	4
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	43	Average annual open rate		7.4%	2	3	6
	2011-12	49						
	2012-13	67						
	2013-14	54						
	2014-15	55						
	Total number	268						
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	13	Average annual closure rate		2.0%	3	3	9
	2010-11	19						
	2011-12	9						
	2012-13	4						
	2013-14	25						
	Total number	70						

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		17%		3	2	6
		STEM		10%				
		Arts		2%				
		Classical		2%				
		Purposely diverse		1%				
		Single sex		3%				
		International/Foreign language		5%				
		Montessori/Waldorf		14%				
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		14%				
		Military		0				
		Vocational training		2%				
		Public policy/Citizenship		3%				
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		58%				
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-22				0	3	0
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		Met Standard	60	61	1			
		Met Alternative Standard	19	20	1			
		Total	79	81	2			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		Improvement Required	21	19	-2			
Totals		Grand Total Points			68	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			89	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		11
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	16	75	5	10		
		SEAs	1	643	643	90		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	-	-	-	-		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			9,012			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			4			
		Number of virtual charter schools			2			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0.002			

# Utah

## RANKING:

# #17

(out of 18)

## SCORE:

# 48

POINTS  
(out of 132)

### Law Summary

Utah enacted its charter public school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #20 out of 43. While Utah's law allows multiple authorizing options and provides sufficient accountability for charters, it contains a cap on charter school growth and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

### Health-of-the-Movement Summary

Utah's charter public school movement ranked #17 out of 18, scoring 48 points out of 132.

Utah scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- In 2014-15, 11 percent of the state's public schools were charters.
- During 2014-15, eight communities in Utah had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters.

Utah scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- During 2013-14, charter public schools in Utah served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (7 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.

- During 2012-13, 39 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 51 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, one charter public school closed in Utah, a .2 percent average annual closure rate.
- Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, the state's charter public school students exhibited lower academic growth (seven fewer days in reading and 43 fewer days in math), on average, when compared with traditional public school students.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 5 percentage points (from 57 percent to 52 percent).

In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Utah:



- In 2014-15, 10 percent of the state's public school students were charter students. According to the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, approximately half of the new students in Utah's public schools choose to attend a charter public school, a pattern that extends back more than a decade.
- During 2013-14, the percentage of racial and ethnic minority students in the state's charter public schools was 3 percentage points less than in its traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 41 public charters opened in Utah, a 7.5 percent average annual growth rate.
- In 2012-13, 48 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 1 percentage point (from 19 percent to 18 percent).
- In 2014-15, 99 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups, and 1 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, Utah law permitted local school boards, the state charter school board, and designated higher education institutions to authorize charter schools, subject to state board of education approval. As of 2014-15, five local school boards had authorized nine charter public schools (8 percent of the state's public charters), two higher education institutions had authorized two charter public schools (2 percent), and the state charter school board had authorized 99 charter public schools (90 percent).
- In 2013-14, three full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Utah, serving 2,960 students (5 percent of the state's charter public school population).

### Concluding Thoughts

- Utah has a relatively good charter law, but it still needs improvements to increase charters' flexibility to innovate and to provide more equitable funding to charter students.
- In Utah, a relatively high percentage of the state's public schools are charters, showing a high demand for these innovative public school options.
- We encourage the state to explore why charters are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools and to ensure that chronically low-performing charters are closed.

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
Growth Indicators									
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			110	3	3	9	
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			11				
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			61,435	2	3	6	
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			10				
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4	
		White	79	76	3				
		Black	1	1	0				
		Hispanic	13	16	-3				
		Asian	2	2	0				
		Other	5	5	0				
		Total minority	21	24	-3				
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status		31	38	-7	1	2	2
		Special education status		N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status		N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations		31	38	-7			
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City		20	18	2	0	2	0
		Suburb		63	49	14			
		Town		6	14	-8			
		Rural		11	19	-8			
		Total nonsuburban		37	51	-14			
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	8				3	1	3	
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	6		Average annual open rate	7.5%	2	3	6	
	2011-12	6							
	2012-13	7							
	2013-14	7							
	2014-15	15							
	Total number	41							
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0		Average annual closure rate	0.2%	0	3	0	
	2010-11	1							
	2011-12	0							
	2012-13	0							
	2013-14	0							
	Total number	1							

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses			0	3	2	6
		STEM			6%			
		Arts			7%			
		Classical			12%			
		Purposely diverse			2%			
		Single sex			0			
		International/Foreign language			7%			
		Montessori/Waldorf			16%			
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery			0			
		Military			0			
		Vocational training			1%			
		Public policy/Citizenship			3%			
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus			48%			
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7				1	3	3
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-43				0	3	0
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	1	3	3
		A	15	10	-5			
		B	42	42	0			
		Total	57	52	-5			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference	2	3	6
		D	10	12	2			
		F	9	6	-3			
		Total	19	18	-1			
Totals		Grand Total Points			48	Total Possible Points		132
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			99	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions		1
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	5	9	2	8		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	1	99	99	90		
		NEGs	-	-	-	-		
		HEIs	2	2	1	2		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			2,960			
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			5			
		Number of virtual charter schools			3			
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3			

# Virginia



Virginia enacted its charter public school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #39 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Virginia's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide what data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

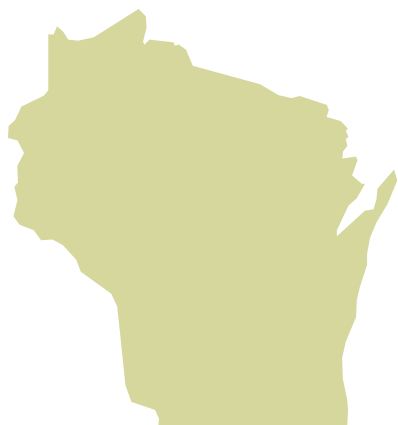
- In 2014-15, there were seven charter public schools and 2,263 charter public school students in Virginia, constituting .4 percent of the state's public schools and .2 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Virginia served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (4 percentage points more) but a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (23 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 100 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 65 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, five new charter public schools opened in Virginia, an average annual open rate of 14.3 percent.

- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, zero charter public schools closed in Virginia.
- In 2012-13, 50 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- As of 2014-15, 86 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 14 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. Five of them had done so as of that year.
- During 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Virginia.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			7
		Percentage of a state’s public schools that are charters			0.4
2. Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			2,263
		Percentage of a state’s public school students that are charter students			0.2
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	48	52	-4
		Black	39	24	15
		Hispanic	6	13	-7
		Asian	2	6	-4
		Other	5	5	0
		Total minority	52	48	4
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	17	40	-23
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	17	40	-23
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	83	23	60
		Suburb	0	35	-35
		Town	0	9	-9
		Rural	17	33	-16
		Total nonsuburban	100	65	35
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	1	Average annual open rate		14.3%
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	2			
	2014-15	1			
	Total number	5			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		0.0%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	0			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		0		
		STEM		0		
		Arts		25%		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		0		
		Montessori/Waldorf		0		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		25%		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		50%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		86	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	5	7	1	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Wisconsin



Wisconsin enacted its charter public school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #37 out of 43.

One of the primary contributors to the weakness of Wisconsin's charter public school law is that it creates three types of charter public schools. The first two types—"independent charter schools" and "noninstrumentality charter schools"—actually have independence and autonomy. The City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside authorized independent charter schools. Noninstrumentality charter schools are authorized by local school districts, and their staff members are employees at the school (not the district). The third type—"instrumentality charter schools"—has little independence and autonomy. Instrumentality charter schools are authorized by local school districts, and their staff members are employees at the district (not the school). The law provides insufficient accountability and inequitable funding to charters to all three types of charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter

public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Wisconsin's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were 245 charter public schools and 42,704 charter public school students in Wisconsin, constituting 12 percent of the state's public schools and 5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- However, only 23 percent of the state's public charters actually have independence and autonomy (meaning they are independent charter schools or noninstrumentality charter schools).
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Wisconsin served higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (24 percentage points more) and free and reduced-price lunch students (13 percentage points more) than traditional public schools.



- In 2012-13, 86 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 79 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2013-14, three communities in Wisconsin had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, 127 new charter public schools opened in Wisconsin, a 10.4 percent average annual open rate.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, 89 charter public schools closed in Wisconsin, a 7.3 percent average annual closure rate.
- In 2012-13, 48 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top two categories of the state's accountability system increased by 2 percentage points (from 43 percent to 45 percent).
- Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom two categories of the state's accountability system decreased by 6 percentage points (from 29 percent to 23 percent).
- During 2014-15, 89 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups and 11 percent were conversions.
- In 2014-15, local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. In the Milwaukee area, other eligible authorizers included the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. As of 2014-15, 99 local school districts had authorized 222 public charters (91 percent of the state's public charters), two higher education authorizers had authorized 13 public charters (5 percent), and one noneducational governmental entity had authorized 10 public charters (4 percent).
- During 2013-14, eight full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Wisconsin, serving 3,967 students (9 percent of the state's charter public school population).

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			245
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			12
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			42,704
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			5
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	50	74	-24
		Black	27	9	18
		Hispanic	15	10	5
		Asian	5	3	2
		Other	3	4	-1
		Total minority	50	26	24
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	54	41	13
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	54	41	13
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	40	23	17
		Suburb	15	21	-6
		Town	19	19	0
		Rural	26	37	-11
		Total nonsuburban	85	79	6
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	2			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	18	Average annual open rate		10.4%
	2011-12	39			
	2012-13	24			
	2013-14	24			
	2014-15	22			
	Total number	127			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	17	Average annual closure rate		7.3%
	2010-11	11			
	2011-12	20			
	2012-13	17			
	2013-14	24			
	Total number	89			

Indicator	Year	Data						
Innovation Indicators								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses				1%		
		STEM				7%		
		Arts				3%		
		Classical				0.5%		
		Purposely diverse				0		
		Single sex				0		
		International/Foreign language				5%		
		Montessori/Waldorf				28%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery				4%		
		Military				0		
		Vocational training				5%		
		Public policy/Citizenship				0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus				48%		
Quality Indicators								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-						
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-						
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference			
		Significantly Exceeds Expectations	9	14	5			
		Exceeds Expectations	34	31	-3			
		Total	43	45	2			
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14		2012-13	2013-14	Difference			
		Meets Few Expectations	20	12	-8			
		Fails To Meet Expectations	9	11	2			
		Total	29	23	-6			
Totals		Grand Total Points				Total Possible Points		
Items Reported but Not Scored								
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups			89	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	11	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer		
		LEAs	99	222	2	91		
		SEAs	-	-	-	-		
		ICBs	-	-	-	-		
		NEGs	1	10	10	4		
		HEIs	2	13	7	5		
		NFPs	-	-	-	-		
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students				3,967		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools				9		
		Number of virtual charter schools				8		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools				3		

# Wyoming

Wyoming enacted its charter public school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it ranked #38 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability to charters, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's charter public school movement had to meet three conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 2 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in CREDO's *National Charter School Study 2013* so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its charter public schools in comparison with its traditional public schools. Third, the state had to have a state accountability system in place that categorized all public schools on the basis of performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Wyoming's movement did not meet at least one of these conditions, so we did not score and rank it in this year's report.

However, below we provide the data we were able to gather. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2014-15, there were four charter public schools and 459 charter public school students in Wyoming, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and .5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2013-14, charter public schools in Wyoming served higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (17 percentage points more) and free and reduced-price lunch students (9 percentage points more) than traditional public schools.
- In 2012-13, 100 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 98 percent of traditional public schools.
- Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, two new charter public schools opened in Wyoming, an average annual open rate of 10 percent.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, one charter public school closed in Wyoming, an average annual closure rate of 5 percent.

- In 2012-13, 33 percent of the state's charter public schools were special-focus schools.
- In 2014-15, 100 percent of the state's charter public schools were start-ups.
- In 2014-15, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. As of that year, two had done so.
- As of 2013-14, zero full-time virtual charter public schools operated in Wyoming.

Indicator	Year	Data			
Growth Indicators					
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2014-15	Number of charter public schools			4
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			1
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2014-15	Number of charter public school students			459
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			0.5
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2013-14		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	63	80	-17
		Black	7	1	6
		Hispanic	16	13	3
		Asian	4	1	3
		Other	10	5	5
		Total minority	37	20	17
4. Percentage of students in special populations	2013-14	Free and reduced-price lunch status	47	38	9
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	47	38	9
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2012-13	City	25	14	11
		Suburb	0	2	-2
		Town	25	33	-8
		Rural	50	51	-1
		Total nonsuburban	100	98	2
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters	2014-15	0			
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2010-11	0	Average annual open rate		10.0%
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	0			
	2014-15	0			
	Total number	2			
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average annual closure rate		5.0%
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total number	1			

Indicator	Year	Data				
Innovation Indicators						
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	2012-13	No Excuses		0		
		STEM		0		
		Arts		0		
		Classical		0		
		Purposely diverse		0		
		Single sex		0		
		International/Foreign language		0		
		Montessori/Waldorf		33%		
		Dropout/Expulsion recovery		0		
		Military		0		
		Vocational training		0		
		Public policy/Citizenship		0		
		Total percentage of schools that are special focus		33%		
Quality Indicators						
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
11. Number of additional days of learning in math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-				
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	2012-13 to 2013-14	-				
Totals		Grand Total Points			Total Possible Points	
Items Reported but Not Scored						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2014-15	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups		100	Percentage of a state's charter public schools that are conversions	
Charter authorizer information	2014-15	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	2	4	2	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	-
		ICBs	-	-	-	-
		NEGs	-	-	-	-
		HEIs	-	-	-	-
		NFPs	-	-	-	-
Virtual charter schools and students	2013-14	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Appendix A: Rubric

Indicator	How Calculated	Weight	Value Statement	Scores				
				0	1	2	3	4
<b>Growth</b>								
1. Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		3	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the percentage, the better.	≤ 1%	2% to 5%	6% to 10%	11% to 15%	16% or more
2. Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3	To ensure that a wide variety of student needs are being met, the higher the percentage, the better.	2%	3% to 5%	6% to 10%	11% to 15%	16% or more
3. Percentage of students by race and ethnicity		2	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., racial minorities) than traditional public schools.	≤ 11 percentage points less	6 percentage points less to 10 percentage points less	5 percentage points less to 5 percentage points more OR ≥ 21 percentage points more	6 percentage points more to 10 percentage points more OR 16 percentage points more to 20 percentage points more	11 percentage points more to 15 percentage points more
4. Percentage of students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English language learner status)		2	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch students, special education students, and English learner students) than traditional public schools.	≤ 11 percentage points less	6 percentage points less to 10 percentage points less	5 percentage points less to 5 percentage points more OR ≥ 21 percentage points more	6 percentage points more to 10 percentage points more OR 16 percentage points more to 20 percentage points more	11 percentage points more to 15 percentage points more
5. Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	Difference between the total percentage of charter public schools located in nonsuburban areas and the total percentage of traditional public schools located in nonsuburban areas	2	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., nonsuburban) than traditional public schools.	≤ 11 percentage points less	6 percentage points less to 10 percentage points less	5 percentage points less to 5 percentage points more OR ≥ 21 percentage points more	6 percentage points more to 10 percentage points more OR 16 percentage points more to 20 percentage points more	11 percentage points more to 15 percentage points more
6. Number of communities with more than 10 percent of students in charters		1	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the number of communities, the better.	0 communities	1 to 3 communities	4 to 6 communities	7 to 9 communities	10 or more communities
7. Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	Average number of new schools per year for the past five years divided by the total number of charter schools	3	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the growth rate, the better.	0% to 0.4%	0.5% to 3.9%	4% to 7.9%	8% to 11.9%	12% or more



## Appendix A: Rubric

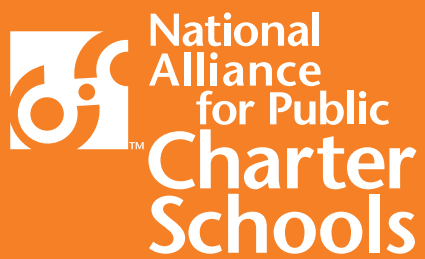
Indicator	How Calculated	Weight	Value Statement	Scores				
				0	1	2	3	4
<b>Growth</b>								
8. Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	Average number of closed schools per year for the past five years divided by the total number of charter schools	3	It is preferable to have a small and consistent percentage of schools close, but the percentage should not be too high, as such a number reveals inadequate approval and oversight processes.	0% to 0.4%	0.5% to 0.9%	1.0% to 1.9% OR $\geq 5.0\%$	2.0% to 2.9% OR 4.0% to 4.9%	3.0% to 3.9%
Innovation								
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus		2	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the percentage, the better.	0% to 14%	15% to 29%	30% to 44%	45% to 59%	60% or more
Quality								
10. Number of additional days of learning in reading		3	It is preferable for charter public schools to have outcomes greater than traditional public schools.	Greater than 10 days less	Between 0 days less and 10 days less	Between 1 day more and 15 days more	Between 16 days more and 30 days more	Greater than 30 days more
11. Number of additional days of learning in math		3	It is preferable for charter public schools to have outcomes greater than traditional public schools.	Greater than 10 days less	Between 0 days less and 10 days less	Between 1 day more and 15 days more	Between 16 days more and 30 days more	Greater than 30 days more
12. Percentage point change within top categories in state accountability system	Difference between 2012-13 and 2013-14 percentages of charter schools within top two levels of state accountability ratings (if 4 or 5 total levels) or difference within only the top level (if 3 total levels)	3	It is preferable for the percentage of charter public schools performing in the top categories to increase.	$\geq -8$ percentage points	Between -3 and -7 percentage points	Between -2 and 2 percentage points	Between 3 and 7 percentage points	$\geq 8$ percentage points
13. Percentage point change within bottom categories in state accountability system	Difference between 2012-13 and 2013-14 percentages of charter schools within bottom two levels of state accountability ratings (if 4 or 5 total levels) or difference within only the bottom level (if 3 total levels)	3	It is preferable for the percentage of charter public schools performing in the bottom categories to decrease.	$\geq 8$ percentage points	Between 3 and 7 percentage points	Between -2 and 2 percentage points	Between -3 and -7 percentage points	$\geq -8$ percentage points

# Appendix B: Data Sources

Indicator	Data Source
1. Public school share	Annually, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools collects school, district, and state enrollment data from official state department of education fall membership count data files. The data in this report are from 2014-15.
2. Public school student share	
3. Students by race and ethnicity	Annually, the National Alliance collects school, district, and state race/ethnicity enrollment data from official state department of education fall membership count data files. The data in this report are from 2013-14.
4. Students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English learner status)	Annually, the National Alliance collects school, district, and state free and reduced-price lunch enrollment data from official state department of education fall membership count data files. Where available, the National Alliance collects school, district, and state special education and English learner status data from state departments of education. The data in this report are from 2013-14. We were able to include data about only free and reduced-price lunch enrollment in this year's report, and not data about special education and English learner status.
5. Schools by geographic distribution	<p>The National Alliance uses the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data (CCD) to code the geographic location of charter public schools. The National Alliance collapsed data from CCD into four main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City: city, large; city, mid-size; city, small</li> <li>Suburb: suburb, large; suburb, mid-size; suburb, small</li> <li>Town: town, fringe; town, distant; town, remote</li> <li>Rural: rural, fringe; rural, distant; rural, remote</li> </ul> <p>The most recent data available from CCD are from 2012-13.</p>
6. Communities with more than 10 percent of students in charter public schools	<p>Annually, the National Alliance releases a report that ranks school districts by the percentage and total number of students enrolled in charter public schools. The version used for this report is entitled <i>A Growing Movement: America's Largest Charter School Communities</i> and was released in November 2015. The following are notes on the data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In this analysis, the National Alliance examined enrollment share in school districts with more than 10,000 public school students (both charter and noncharter) in the 2014-15 school year. The National Alliance gathered charter and noncharter public school enrollment data from state department of education databases and personnel.</li> <li>More than 50 percent of charter schools nationwide are their own independent local education agencies (LEAs), rather than part of traditional public school district LEAs. In the past, this separation meant that it was not always clear which public school district charter schools were physically located in, especially for charter schools in large metropolitan cities with more than one school district (e.g., Phoenix, Arizona, and Houston, Texas). For the five most recent editions of the market share report, the National Alliance used a geocoding method to more accurately identify the geographically relevant school districts for each charter. Specifically, the National Alliance geocoded every charter school that is an independent LEA to the geographically relevant traditional public school district LEA by mapping charter school addresses onto school district boundary maps available through the U.S. Census Bureau.</li> <li>For Michigan, the National Alliance used student residential enrollment data that indicate the total number of students attending charter schools based on the district where students reside. The student residence enrollment data present information regarding how many students from a school district attend charter schools. Some students may attend charter schools outside their traditional district boundaries. The 2013-14 data for Detroit, Michigan, and Cleveland, Ohio, have been revised to remove computational errors.</li> <li>The growing number of virtual charter schools enrolling children from across an entire state presents an issue. Because many states haven't developed student enrollment reporting systems that allow for sorting individual students by community of residence at each charter school, the National Alliance excluded virtual school enrollment data from both the charter and total district enrollment data when calculating market share percentages. This decision might create some undercounting in school districts where large numbers of students are enrolled in virtual charter schools. The National Alliance coded virtual schools according to a nationwide list gathered from state department of education databases and personnel. The National Alliance does include enrollment from virtual schools in the District of Columbia and Hawaii—where there is only one school district in the state—and from Delaware, Michigan, and Ohio—where the National Alliance has resident enrollment data and knows the district where students live.</li> </ul> <p>The data in this report are from 2014-15.</p>
7. New charter public schools opened over the past five years	In the fall of each academic year, the National Alliance contacts state departments of education and charter support organizations to gather lists of anticipated new charter public schools as well as charter public schools that closed during the previous year. When state departments of education make official fall enrollment files available, the National Alliance revises the lists to determine new and closed charter public schools. For #7, the data in this report are from 2010-11 to 2014-15. For #8, the data are from 2009-10 to 2013-14.
8. Charter public schools closed over the past five years	

## Appendix B: Data Sources

Indicator	Data Source
9. Percentage of charter schools with an identified special focus	<p>In July 2015, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) released a report entitled <i>Measuring Diversity in Charter School Offerings</i>. In this report, AEI examined the charter markets of 17 cities chosen to reflect diversity in both size and charter market, comprising a total of 1,151 charter schools educating more than 471,000 students in 2012-13, and coded them by their curricular or pedagogical specializations. AEI went to the website of each school and looked for descriptive words about its mission, vision, educational philosophy, academic model, or curriculum. AEI used keywords such as “no excuses,” “project-based,” and “STEM” (which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to classify schools as being “specialized.” If a school had a keyword or phrase associated with specialization, it was classified as “specialized.” If a school’s mission statement or “about us” section lacked any of those terms, it was classified as “general.” Schools could be either general or specialized, not both.</p> <p>Within the subset of specialized schools, AEI then classified schools based on their pedagogical or curricular focus. Doing so, however, did create overlap between categories; for example, it is possible to have a no-excuses STEM school or a classical single-sex school. That said, the “specialized” schools were classified into 13 total categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Arts</li> <li>■ Classical</li> <li>■ Dropout/Expulsion Recovery</li> <li>■ Hybrid or online</li> <li>■ International/foreign language</li> <li>■ Military</li> <li>■ Montessori/Waldorf</li> <li>■ No excuses</li> <li>■ Public policy/Citizenship</li> <li>■ Purposely diverse</li> <li>■ Single sex</li> <li>■ STEM</li> <li>■ Vocational training</li> </ul> <p>AEI provided this data to the National Alliance for this report. The National Alliance then gathered similar data for all of the other charter public schools that were open during 2012-13.</p> <p>Of the 13 categories used by AEI, the National Alliance used 12 of them. We did not use the “hybrid or online” category, as we included data about full-time virtual charter schools elsewhere in this report.</p>
10. Additional days of learning in reading	The source for this indicator was Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University’s <i>National Charter School Study</i> 2013. The data are from 2007-08 to 2010-11.
11. Additional days of learning in math	The source for this indicator was CREDO at Stanford University’s 2013 <i>National Charter School Study</i> . The data are from 2007-08 to 2010-11.
12. Percentage point change in top categories in state accountability system	For each state department of education that collects state accountability system information, we gathered data from 2012-13 and 2013-14. A total of 18 states had such data for both years.
13. Percentage point change in bottom categories in state accountability system	For each state departments of education that collects state accountability system information, we gathered data from 2012-13 and 2013-14. A total of 18 states had such data for both years.
<b>Indicators Reported but Not Scored</b>	
Start-ups versus conversions	Annually, the National Alliance collects information from state departments of education about whether charter public schools are conversions or start-ups. The data in this report are from 2014-15.
Charter authorizers	<p>The National Alliance collected information about authorizers from state departments of education and charter support organizations. The data in this report are from 2014-15. The acronyms stand for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ LEAs = Local Educational Agencies</li> <li>■ SEAs = State Educational Agencies</li> <li>■ ICBs = Independent Chartering Boards</li> <li>■ NEGs = Non-Educational Government entities</li> <li>■ HEIs = Higher Education Institutions</li> <li>■ NFPs = Not-For-Profit organizations</li> </ul>
Virtual charter public schools and students	Momentum Strategy & Research gathered the data for this indicator for the National Alliance. The data in this report are from 2013-14.



1101 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1010  
Washington, DC 20005

T.202.289.2700  
F.202.289.4009

[www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org)