



MEASURING UP TO THE MODEL: A Ranking of State Charter Public School Laws

Eighth Edition
March 2017

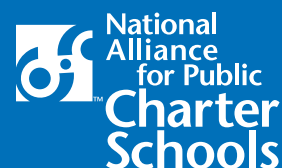


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Acknowledgments

This report was written by Todd Ziebarth, senior vice president for state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools; Louann Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership professor at Western Michigan University; and Emily Schultz, senior manager for state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

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INTRODUCTION

This edition of *Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter Public School Laws* is the eighth rankings report produced by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools and the first to measure each state's charter public school law against *A Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Charter Public Schools: Second Edition*, which was released in October 2016. The previous seven editions were benchmarked against the first edition of our model law, which was released in June 2009.

Although the vast majority of provisions in the first edition of the model law are contained in the second edition, there are several critical updates as well. Some updates focus on providing more equitable support to charter school students, such as by strengthening facilities provisions and requiring state departments of education to create an annual funding transparency report.

Other updates focus on flexibility for charter schools, such as by providing for the expedited charter contract renewal process for high-performing charter schools and requiring that authorizers not request duplicative data submission from their charter schools.

Still other updates focus on strengthening accountability for charter schools and their authorizers, such as by holding full-time virtual charter schools more accountable, better ensuring that chronically low-performing charter schools are closed, and strengthening accountability requirements for educational service providers that partner with charter schools.

This edition of *Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter Public School Laws* takes into account these key updates.

It also factors in important changes made to state law in 2016. Most significantly, Washington state passed legislation that re-established its charter school law after the Washington Supreme Court declared its previous law invalid, becoming the 44th jurisdiction (43 states and D.C.) with a charter school law. Mississippi also made major improvements to its law, now allowing students in school districts rated C, D, or F to cross district lines to attend a charter school and permitting charter school employees to participate in the state retirement system and other benefits programs.

We saw several states strengthen their authorizing environments as well. Most notably, Michigan required that authorizers be accredited in order to approve additional schools in Detroit, enacted automatic closure requirements for chronically low-performing charter schools across the state, and prohibited authorizer hopping (i.e., the practice of a low-performing charter school jumping from one authorizer to another in order to avoid closure).

We also saw several states improve their support for charter school funding and facilities. For example, Arizona created the Public School Credit Enhancement Fund, which will be leveraged to provide more than \$300 million of low-cost financing for quality schools, including charter schools. Florida increased funding for its facilities capital outlay program for charter schools from \$50 million to \$75 million and changed the eligibility criteria and allocation process for this program.

As charter school supporters engage in advocacy efforts during 2017 to strengthen charter school laws while defending these laws against efforts to weaken them, we hope this report will be a useful tool. Our collective efforts remain focused on how best to create more high-quality charter schools, particularly for those students who most need such options.



Nina Rees
President and CEO
National Alliance
for Public Charter Schools



Todd Ziebarth
Senior Vice President
for State Advocacy and Support
National Alliance for
Public Charter Schools

2017 STATE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS¹

2017 Ranking	State	2017 Score
1	Indiana	176
2	Alabama	174
3	Minnesota	171
4	Washington	164
5	Colorado	164
6	New York	162
7	Maine	161
8	Florida	161
9	Louisiana	161
10	Mississippi	160
11	Arizona	160
12	Massachusetts	159
13	Nevada	159
14	North Carolina	157
15	Oklahoma	156
16	California	154
17	South Carolina	153
18	Washington, D.C.	153
19	Delaware	151
20	Idaho	150
21	Ohio	147
22	New Mexico	146

2017 Ranking	State	2017 Score
23	Utah	146
24	Georgia	145
25	Texas	142
26	New Hampshire	139
27	Michigan	137
28	Hawaii	136
29	Tennessee	133
30	Arkansas	132
31	Pennsylvania	131
32	Missouri	130
33	Connecticut	126
34	Oregon	126
35	New Jersey	124
36	Illinois	123
37	Rhode Island	117
38	Wisconsin	104
39	Virginia	91
40	Wyoming	87
41	Iowa	82
42	Alaska	78
43	Kansas	65
44	Maryland	51

1 | In case of a tie, we first looked at each state's total weighted score for the four "quality control" components. Whichever state had the highest score was ranked higher. If the states had the same total weighted score for these components, we looked at each state's total weighted score for the two funding components. Whichever state had the highest score was ranked higher.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THIS YEAR'S MODEL LAW RANKINGS

Some key takeaways from this year's rankings include:

- **Indiana** has the nation's strongest charter school law in the country, ranking No. 1 (out of 44). Indiana's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. Indiana also made notable strides in 2015 to provide more equitable funding to charter schools, although some work remains to be done.
- The **Top 10** includes a mixture of states with more mature movements (**Indiana** at No. 1, **Minnesota** at No. 3, **Colorado** at No. 5, **New York** at No. 6, **Florida** at No. 8, and **Louisiana** at No. 9) and states with newer movements (**Alabama** at No. 2, **Washington** at No. 4, **Maine** at No. 7, and **Mississippi** at No. 10). The fact that these states are in the Top 10 speaks to the fact that many existing states continue to strengthen their laws based on what's working (and what's not working) and that new states rely heavily on those lessons learned so they don't repeat the mistakes of the states that came before them.
- In the inaugural version of this report in 2010, **Washington, D.C.** was ranked No. 2, receiving 63 percent of the total possible points. In this version of the report, Washington, D.C. is ranked No. 18, receiving 64 percent of the total possible points. Its law is still as strong as it was then: Its cap still allows for ample growth, it has an independent charter board as the authorizer, it provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and it includes some facilities support. In practice, the Washington, D.C. Public Charter School Board has proved to be one of the nation's strongest authorizers. However, there have been major improvements to charter school laws in many

states since 2010, especially in the areas of facilities and accountability.² These improvements have boosted the scores and rankings of many states, leading them to pass Washington, D.C. in our rankings. That's good news for charter schools across the nation, as more and more states have stronger and stronger laws.

- **Maryland** has the nation's weakest charter school law, ranking No. 44 (out of 44). While Maryland's law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools. Rounding out the bottom five states are **Wyoming** (No. 40), **Iowa** (No. 41), **Alaska** (No. 42), and **Kansas** (No. 43).

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

2 | Todd Ziebarth, *Assessing the Increasing Strength of Charter School Laws: Third Edition*, Washington, D.C.: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, September 2016.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF A STRONG CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

In this report, we evaluate each state's charter public school law against the 21 essential components of a strong charter school law. These 21 components are drawn from the National Alliance's *A New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Public Charter Schools: Second Edition*. Table 2 lists the 21 essential components and a brief description of each.

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

- 12. Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures**, which must be followed by all charter schools.
- 13. Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations**, except for those covering health, safety, civil rights, student accountability, employee criminal history checks, open meetings, freedom of information requirements, and generally accepted accounting principles.
- 14. Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption**, whereby charter schools are exempt from any outside collective bargaining agreements, while not interfering with laws and other applicable rules protecting the rights of employees to organize and be free from discrimination.
- 15. Multischool Charter Contract and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed**, whereby an independent charter school board may oversee multiple schools linked under a single charter contract or may hold multiple charter contracts.
- 16. Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access**, whereby (a) charter school students and employees are eligible for state- and district-sponsored interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, and recognition programs to the same extent as district public school students and employees; and (b) students at charter schools that do not provide extracurricular and interscholastic activities have access to those activities at district public schools for a fee via a mutual agreement.
- 17. Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities**, including clarity on which entity is the local education agency responsible for such services and how such services are to be funded (especially for low-incident, high-cost cases).
- 18. Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding**, flowing to the school in a timely fashion and in the same amount as district schools following eligibility criteria similar to all other public schools.
- 19. Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities**, including multiple provisions such as facilities funding, access to public space, access to financing tools, and other supports.
- 20. Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems**, with the option to participate in a similar manner as all other public schools.
- 21. Full-Time Virtual Charter School Provisions**, including specific provisions regarding authorizing structure, enrollment criteria, enrollment levels, accountability for performance, funding levels based on costs, and performance-based funding.

LEADING STATES FOR THE 21 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE MODEL LAW

This year’s rankings report again details the leaders for each of the 21 essential components of the National Alliance model law—i.e., those states that received the highest rating for a particular component. For 16 of the 21 components, the leading states received a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 4. For Components 8, 9, 18, and 19, no states received a 4, so the leading states are those that received a rating of 3. For Component 21, no states received higher than a 2, so no states are listed.

Table 3 lists the leading states for each component.

1. **No Caps (20 States):** Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming
2. **A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed (41 states):** Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
3. **Multiple Authorizers Available (15 states):** Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah
4. **Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required (9 states):** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington
5. **Adequate Authorizer Funding (5 states):** Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, Washington
6. **Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes (4 states):** Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Washington
7. **Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required (4 states):** Alabama, Maine, Mississippi, Washington
8. **Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes (33 states):** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington
9. **Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions (20 states):** Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington

- 10. Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions (20 states):** Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington
- 11. Educational Service Providers Allowed (1 state):** Florida
- 12. Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards (29 states):** Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin
- 13. Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures (7 states):** Alabama, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York
- 14. Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations (5 states):** Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Oklahoma
- 15. Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption (24 states):** Alabama, Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
- 16. Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed (18 states):** Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin
- 17. Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access (1 state):** South Carolina
- 18. Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities (3 states):** California, Ohio, Pennsylvania
- 19. Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding (1 state):** New Mexico
- 20. Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities (5 states):** California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Indiana, Utah
- 21. Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems (14 states):** Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah
- 22. Full-Time Virtual Charter School Provisions (0 states)**

ALABAMA

2
Rank (out of 44)

174
Total Points (out of 240)

2015
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

0
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

0
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Alabama’s law contains a cap that allows for ample growth, allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a statewide authorizer, has strong quality-control components, gives operational autonomy to charter public schools, and provides equitable operational and categorical funding to charter schools.

The primary weaknesses of the law are that it provides inequitable facilities funding and inadequate accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

The main places for improvement are ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 174

ALASKA

42

Rank (out of 44)

78

Total Points (out of 240)

1995

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

29

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

6,600

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Alaska’s law does not cap charter public school growth and includes an appellate mechanism for charter school applicants rejected by local school boards, but it also provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable facilities funding.

Alaska’s law still needs major improvement. Potential starting points include beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components 6 through 9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new startups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law does not include any of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access to extracurricular and interscholastic activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter school students versus district students receive.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score **78**

ARIZONA

Arizona’s law does not have a cap on charter public school growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its charter schools. However, the law still provides inequitable funding to charter school students by barring their access to significant funding streams.

Potential areas for improvement in Arizona’s law include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, providing adequate authorizer funding, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

11

Rank (out of 44)

160

Total Points (out of 240)

1994

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

547

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

180,000

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	3	2	6
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 160

ARKANSAS

30
Rank (out of 44)

132
Total Points (out of 240)

1995
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

73
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

29,400
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Arkansas’ law has a cap on charter public school growth, it is structured in a way that allows ample growth. Although the state law provides adequate accountability provisions, it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include creating additional authorizing options, increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding, further ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes all of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	4	3	12
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires some charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows an independent charter public school board to oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	1	3	3

Total Score **132**

CALIFORNIA

16
Rank (out of 44)

154
Total Points (out of 240)

1992
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

1,253
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

604,700
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

California’s law has a cap that allows ample growth, provides a robust appellate process, and provides a fair amount of autonomy but lacks some aspects of the model law’s accountability provisions, and has made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charter public schools—although some work remains to be done.

Potential areas for improvement in its charter school law include strengthening authorizer accountability, beefing up requirements for performance-based charter contracts, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

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

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

Total Score **154**

COLORADO

5

Rank (out of 44)

164

Total Points (out of 240)

1993

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

238

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

114,700

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Colorado’s law does not cap charter public school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, and provides multiple authorizers or a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement in the law include ensuring equitable operational funding, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified unless a waiver is granted in the charter contract.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not directly address this issue but has been consistently interpreted to exempt charter schools from district collective bargaining agreements.	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	3	2	6
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	1	3	3

Total Score **164**

CONNECTICUT

33

Rank (out of 44)

126

Total Points (out of 240)

1996

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

24

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

9,700

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Connecticut’s law contains significant restrictions on growth, includes a single authorizer, and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter public schools.

Much improvement is still needed in Connecticut’s charter school law, including lifting its remaining restrictions on growth, providing additional authorizing options, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes all of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	4	3	12
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

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

Total Score 126

DELAWARE

19

Rank (out of 44)

151

Total Points (out of 240)³

1995

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

25

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

15,300

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Delaware’s law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its charter public schools, but it contains a moratorium on charter school growth in Wilmington and provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Delaware’s law still needs improvement in several areas, including lifting the moratorium on charter school growth in Wilmington, ensuring equitable operational and facilities funding, ensuring adequate authorizing funding, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

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

3 | Since Delaware does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Delaware received 143 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 63 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 63 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (151).

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

Total Score 151

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

18

Rank (out of 44)

153

Total Points (out of 240)

1996

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

119

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

42,400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Washington D.C.’s law has a cap on charter public schools that allows for ample growth, includes an independent charter board as the authorizer, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

The biggest area for potential improvement is ensuring equitable operational funding for charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8 Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides eligibility but not access.	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides that only employees transferring from a local district school to a charter school may elect to stay in the D.C. retirement system. Otherwise, charter employees do not have access to the system.	1	2	2
21 Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 153

FLORIDA

8

Rank (out of 44)

161

Total Points (out of 240)

1996

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

656

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

291,200

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Florida’s law does not have a cap on charter public school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include creating authorizer accountability requirements, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 161

GEORGIA

24

Rank (out of 44)

145

Total Points (out of 240)

1994

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

83

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

84,400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Georgia’s law does not cap charter public school growth, provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, and provides adequate autonomy and accountability. However, it does not provide equitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, allowing multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter contract boards, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 145

HAWAII

28

Rank (out of 44)

136

Total Points (out of 240)

1994

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

34

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

10,900

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Hawaii’s law does not cap charter public school growth, provides a single authorizing option to applicants, and provides sufficient accountability. However, the law still provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Hawaii’s law still needs significant improvement in several areas, including beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; exempting charter schools from collective bargaining agreements; ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities; ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers; and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 136

IDAHO

20

Rank (out of 44)

147

Total Points (out of 240)

1996

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

52

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

21,400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Idaho’s law is mostly cap-free, provides multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charter public schools.

Potential areas for improvement include creating authorizer accountability requirements, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score **150**

ILLINOIS

36
Rank (out of 44)

123
Total Points (out of 240)

1996
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

143
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

65,500
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Illinois’ law provides an appellate process for charter public school applicants rejected by local school districts and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, it contains caps on charter school growth and provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Illinois’ law needs major work in several areas—most significantly, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations, requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charter schools, and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charter schools.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 123

INDIANA

1

Rank (out of 44)

176

Total Points (out of 240)

2001

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

95

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

43,900

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Indiana’s law does not cap charter public school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. Indiana made notable strides in 2015 to provide more equitable funding to charter schools, although some work remains to be done.

The biggest area for improvement in Indiana’s law is continuation of efforts to close the inequitable funding gap between charter school students and their counterparts in district public schools. Another area is strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 176

IOWA

41

Rank (out of 44)

82

Total Points (out of 240)

2002

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

3

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Iowa’s law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Iowa’s law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components 6 through 9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	1	3	3
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions.	0	3	0
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	3	2	6
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	4	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score **82**

KANSAS

43

Rank (out of 44)

65

Total Points (out of 240)

1994

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

10

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

3,800

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Kansas’ law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Kansas’ law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components 6 through 9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	4	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score **65**

LOUISIANA

9

Rank (out of 44)

161

Total Points (out of 240)

1995

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

146

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

84,400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Louisiana’s law does not cap charter public school growth, includes multiple authorizers, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides relatively equitable operational and categorical funding to charter schools. However, it does not provide equitable facilities funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement are ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multicharter contract boards and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools.	3	2	6
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 161

MAINE

7

Rank (out of 44)

161

Total Points (out of 240)

2011

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

9

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

2,000

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Maine’s law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a statewide authorizer, has strong quality-control components, provides operational autonomy to charter public schools, and provides equitable operational funding to charter schools. The three major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 10 state-authorized charter schools during the initial 10 years that the law is in effect (there is no cap on the number of charter schools that local school districts can approve), a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charter schools’ facilities’ needs, and inadequate accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement in the law are lifting the state’s cap on state-authorized charter schools, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with no room for growth.	0	3	0
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	4	2	8
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	4	4	16

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

Total Score 161

MARYLAND

44

Rank (out of 44)

51

Total Points (out of 240)³

2003

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

49

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

23,500

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Maryland’s law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Maryland’s law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components 6 through 9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law does not include any of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	0	4	0
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	0	4	0

3 | Since Maryland does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Maryland received 48 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 21 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 21 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (51).

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

Total Score **51**

MASSACHUSETTS

12
Rank (out of 44)

159
Total Points (out of 240)⁴

1993
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

81
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

44,200
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Massachusetts’ law provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools, but it contains a variety of caps on charter growth, includes only a single authorizing path, and provides inequitable funding.

Potential areas for improvement include removing the state’s caps on charter school growth and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 schools and 99 schools are authorized.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

4 | Since Massachusetts does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Massachusetts received 151 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 66 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 66 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (159).

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

Total Score 159

MICHIGAN

27

Rank (out of 44)

137

Total Points (out of 240)

1993

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

301

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

146,100

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Michigan’s law contains caps on charter public schools that allow for ample growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of accountability. However, it provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding.

Potential areas for improvement include beefing up the law’s application requirements, increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multischool charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score **137**

MINNESOTA

3

Rank (out of 44)

171

Total Points (out of 240)

1991

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

167

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

53,400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Minnesota’s law does not cap charter public school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

The biggest areas for improvement in Minnesota’s law are ensuring equitable operational and categorical funding, equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score **171**

MISSISSIPPI

10

Rank (out of 44)

160

Total Points (out of 240)

2010

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

3

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

400

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Mississippi’s law contains a cap with room for ample growth, includes a single statewide authorizing entity, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and includes strong operational and categorical funding.

Potential areas of improvement in Mississippi’s law include providing applicants in all districts with direct access to the state authorizer, providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter public schools.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing path, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes all of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	4	3	12
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	4	4	16
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	4	4	16

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

Total Score **160**

MISSOURI

32

Rank (out of 44)

130

Total Points (out of 240)

1998

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

61

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

23,000

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Missouri’s law is largely cap-free and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools. However, it includes multiple authorizing options in some districts, but not others, and provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; providing multiple authorizing options in all districts; ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities; and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 130

NEVADA

13

Rank (out of 44)

159

Total Points (out of 240)

1997

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

39

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

39,900

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Nevada’s law does not have a cap on charter public school growth and allows multiple authorizing entities. Over the past few years, Nevada has taken steps to improve its law by creating an independent state authorizer, strengthening accountability, and providing facilities support. Still, the law provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows a charter school to submit a written request to the state superintendent of public instruction for a waiver from providing the days of instruction required by state law and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 159

NEW HAMPSHIRE

26
Rank (out of 43)

139
Total Points (out of 240)

1996
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

26
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

3,300
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While New Hampshire’s law contains a cap that allows for adequate growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter public schools, the state’s authorizing options (local school districts and the state board of education) have been unreliable and the law provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement in New Hampshire’s charter school law include providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, providing adequate authorizer funding, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 139

NEW JERSEY

35
Rank (out of 44)

124
Total Points (out of 240)⁵

1995
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

88
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

48,900
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

New Jersey’s law does not contain caps on charter public school growth and provides a fair amount of accountability, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include expanding authorizer options for applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 schools and 99 schools are authorized.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

5 | Since New Jersey does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. New Jersey received 118 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 52 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 52 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (124).

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

Total Score **122**

NEW MEXICO

22
Rank (out of 44)

146
Total Points (out of 240)

1993
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

99
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

25,400
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

New Mexico’s law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of accountability, but contains some caps on charter public school growth and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy, allowing multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter contract boards, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 146

NEW YORK

6

Rank (out of 44)

162

Total Points (out of 240)⁶

1998

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

267

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

132,100

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

New York’s law has a cap on charter public schools that allows for ample growth, provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, but provides inequitable funding.

Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

6 | Since New York does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. New York received 154 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 68 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 68 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (162).

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

Total Score **162**

NORTH CAROLINA

14

Rank (out of 44)

157

Total Points (out of 240)

1996

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

168

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

91,800

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

North Carolina’s law does not cap charter public school growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inequitable funding.

Potential areas of improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, providing adequate authorizer funding, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multicharter contract boards but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 157

OHIO

21

Rank (out of 44)

147

Total Points (out of 240)

1997

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

362

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

121,000

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Ohio’s law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides sufficient autonomy and accountability to charter public schools, it allows only brick-and-mortar startup charter schools in about 10 percent of the state’s school districts and provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas of improvement include removing all caps on charter school growth; beefing up the law’s requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities; and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards for some schools but not others.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access but not eligibility.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score **147**

OKLAHOMA

15
Rank (out of 44)

156
Total Points (out of 240)

1999
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

37
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

22,300
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Oklahoma’s law contains caps on charter public schools that allow for ample growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, and includes multiple authorizers; however, it provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

The biggest areas for improvement in Oklahoma’s law are ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 148

OREGON

34

Rank (out of 44)

126

Total Points (out of 240)

1999

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

126

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

32,900

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Oregon’s law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charter schools, it also includes limited authorizing options, insufficient accountability, and inadequate funding.

Oregon’s law needs significant work on ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. The law also needs to provide additional authorizing options for charter applicants and strengthen accountability for schools (including full-time virtual charter schools) and authorizers.

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

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

Total Score 126

PENNSYLVANIA

31
Rank (out of 44)

131
Total Points (out of 240)

1997
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

183
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

138,400
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Pennsylvania’s law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charter schools, it primarily allows local school district authorizers and provides insufficient accountability and inadequate funding to charter schools.

Pennsylvania’s law needs improvement in several areas, including prohibiting district-mandated restrictions on growth, expanding authorizer options, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing authorizer funding, beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components 6 through 9), allowing multischool charter contracts or multicontract governing boards, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state law does not place any caps on charter school growth, but some school districts have enacted restrictions on growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized.	3	3	9
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from some state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	2	0
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems, unless at the time of application it has a retirement program that covers the employee or the employee is currently enrolled in another retirement program.	4	2	8
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	1	3	3

Total Score 131

RHODE ISLAND

37
Rank (out of 44)

117
Total Points (out of 240)⁷

1995
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

30
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

8,000
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Rhode Island’s law provides a fair amount of accountability but caps charter public school growth, allows only one authorizing option, and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Rhode Island’s law is still in need of significant improvement, most notably by removing the remaining caps on charter school growth, providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 schools and 49 schools are authorized.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

⁷ | Since Rhode Island does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Rhode Island received 111 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 49 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 49 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (117).

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

Total Score **174**

SOUTH CAROLINA

17

Rank (out of 44)

153

Total Points (out of 240)

1996

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

66

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

31,700

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

South Carolina law does not cap charter public school growth, provides multiple authorizing options to charter applicants, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charter schools, especially around facilities, technology, and transportation.

Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable funding by increasing per-pupil funding, providing equitable access to capital funding, and ensuring access to vacant and underutilized facilities. South Carolina could also consider ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, allowing multischool charter contracts or multicontract governing boards, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 153

TENNESSEE

29
Rank (out of 44)

133
Total Points (out of 240)⁸

2002
Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

107
Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

30,000
Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Tennessee’s law does not cap charter public school growth, it primarily allows only local school district authorizers, affords insufficient autonomy and accountability, and provides inequitable funding.

Tennessee’s law needs improvement in several areas, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities; creating additional authorizing options in all of the state’s districts; providing adequate authorizer funding; ensuring authorizer accountability; beefing up the requirements for performance-based contracts, charter school oversight, and renewals; and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

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

8 | Since Tennessee does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Tennessee received 126 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 55 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 55 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (133).

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8 Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21 Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not allow full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score 133

TEXAS

25

Rank (out of 44)

142

Total Points (out of 240)

1995

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

761

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

315,200

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Texas’ law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state- versus district-authorized charter public schools. The requirements for state-authorized charter schools are typically better than those for district-authorized charter schools. For example, the law’s provisions for charter school autonomy are much better for state-authorized charter schools. In fact, if our analysis focused on the provisions governing only state-authorized charter schools, Texas’ law would be in our Top 10. However, because our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charter schools, Texas is ranked No. 25.

Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

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

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

Total Score 142

UTAH

23

Rank (out of 44)

146

Total Points (out of 240)

1998

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

125

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

71,500

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Utah’s law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides sufficient accountability to charter public schools, but it contains a cap on charter school growth and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include ensuring authorizing accountability, beefing up the requirements for renewals, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, providing more operational autonomy to charter schools, ensuring equitable operational funding, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score 146

VIRGINIA

39

Rank (out of 44)

91

Total Points (out of 240)

1998

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

9

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

1,500

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Virginia’s law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding.

Virginia’s law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options; beefing up the law’s application, oversight, and renewal requirements; increasing operational autonomy; ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities; ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers; and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies but provides an opportunity for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not allow full-time virtual charter schools.	N/A	3	N/A

Total Score **91**

WASHINGTON

4

Rank (out of 44)

164

Total Points (out of 240)

2016

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

7

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

1,300

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Washington’s law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, gives operational autonomy to charter public schools, and provides equitable operational funding to charter schools. The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 40 charter schools during the initial five years that it is in effect and a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charter schools facilities needs.

Potential areas for improvement include lifting the state’s cap, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score **164**

WISCONSIN

38

Rank (out of 44)

104

Total Points (out of 240)

1993

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

234

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

44,900

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

Wisconsin’s law is largely cap free, allows multiple authorizing options in some districts, and provides adequate autonomy for charter public schools, but it provides inadequate accountability and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include providing multiple authorizing options in all districts; beefing up the law’s application, oversight, and renewal requirements; ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities; ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers; and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

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

Total Score **104**

WYOMING

40

Rank (out of 44)

87

Total Points (out of 240)

1995

Year Charter Public School Law Was Enacted

4

Number of Charter Public Schools in 2016–17

500

Estimated Number of Charter Public School Students in 2016–17

While Wyoming’s law does not contain a cap on charter public school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding.

Wyoming’s law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components 6 through 9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

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

Essential Components of Strong Charter Public School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
8	Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-Time Virtual Charter Public School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0

Total Score **87**

APPENDIX: METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

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

Weights

For our analysis comparing each state’s charter public school law with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools’ model law, we first weighted each of the model law’s 21 essential components with a weight from 1 to 4. Please note that previous versions of this analysis had involved 20 essential components, while No. 21

“Full-Time Virtual Charter Schools Provisions” has been added for this report (italicized below), as taken from *A New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Charter Public Schools: Second Edition*, which was released in October 2016.

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

Rubric

After weighting each of the 21 components, we rated every state on the components on a scale of 0 to 4. We multiplied the rating and the weight to get a score for each component in each state. We then added up the scores for each of the components and came up with an overall score for each state. For those states that allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 240 for all 21 components. For those states that don't allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted these scores to ones that are comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. For example, Maryland received 48 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20

components, or 21 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 21 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (51).

To align the rubric with *A New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Charter Public Schools: Second Edition*, we added 24 sub-components within the rubric for this report. These items are italicized within the tables below.

The tables show how we defined the 0 to 4 ratings for each component. "Not applicable" signifies that we did not give that particular numeric rating for that component in any state.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

1 | No Caps

Whereby:

- 1A. No numeric or geographic limits are placed on the number of charter public schools or students.
- 1B. If caps exist, there is room for growth.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

0 The state has a cap with no room for growth.

1 The state has a cap with room for limited growth.

2 The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.

The state has a cap with room for ample growth.

OR

3 The state does not have a cap but allows districts to restrict growth. Some districts have done so.

4 The state does not have a cap.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

2 | A Variety of Charter Public Schools Allowed

Criteria includes:

- 2A. New startups.
- 2B. Public school conversions.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

0 Not applicable

1 The state only allows public school conversions.

2 Not applicable

3 The state allows new startups but not public school conversions.

4 The state allows new startups and public school conversions.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

3 | Multiple Authorizers Available

Criteria includes:

- 3A. The state allows two or more authorizing options (e.g., school districts and a state charter schools commission) for each applicant with direct application to each authorizer.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

0 The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized.

1 The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 and 49 schools are authorized.

The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.

OR

The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.

2

OR

The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.

OR

The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 and 99 schools are authorized.

The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.

OR

The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.

3

OR

The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized.

4

The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required

Criteria includes:

- 4A. Registration process for school boards to affirm their interest in authorizing.
- 4B. Application process for other eligible authorizing entities (except a state charter schools commission).
- 4C. Authorizer submission of annual report.
- 4D. The ability for the state to conduct a review of an authorizer's performance.
- 4E. The ability for the state to sanction an authorizer for poor performance, including suspending an authorizer's authority to approve new schools.
- 4F. Periodic formal evaluation of overall state charter school program and outcomes.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding

Criteria includes:

- 5A. A uniform statewide formula that guarantees annual authorizer funding that is not subject to annual legislative appropriations.
- 5B. Requirement to publicly report detailed authorizer expenditures.
- 5C. Separate contract for any services purchased from an authorizer by a school.
- 5D. Prohibition on authorizers requiring schools to purchase services from them.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

6 | Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes

Criteria includes:

- 6A. Application elements for all schools.
- 6B. Additional application elements specific to conversion schools.
- 6C. Additional application elements specific to using educational service providers.
- 6D. Additional application elements specific to replications.
- 6E. Requirement for thorough evaluation of each application, including an in-person interview and a public meeting.
- 6F. Application approval criteria.
- 6G. All charter approval or denial decisions made in a public meeting with authorizers stating reasons for denials in writing.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

7 | Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required

With such contracts:

- 7A. Being created as a separate document from the application and executed by the governing board of the charter school and the authorizer.
- 7B. Defining the roles, powers, and responsibilities for the school and its authorizer.
- 7C. Defining academic, financial, and operational performance expectations by which the school will be judged based on a performance framework.
- 7D. Providing an initial term of five operating years.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

8 | Comprehensive Charter Public School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes

Criteria includes:

- 8A. Required annual school performance reports.
- 8B. Financial accountability for charter schools (e.g., generally accepted accounting principles, independent annual audit reported to authorizer).
- 8C. Authorizer authority to conduct oversight activities.
- 8D. Authorizer notification to its schools of perceived problems, with opportunities to remedy such problems.
- 8E. Authorizer authority to take appropriate corrective actions or exercise sanctions short of revocation.
- 8F. *Authorizer may not request duplicative data submission from its charter schools and may not use performance framework to create cumbersome reporting requirements.*

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

9 | Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions

Criteria includes:

- 9A. Authorizer must issue school performance renewal reports to schools whose charter will expire the following year.
- 9B. Schools seeking renewal must apply for it.
- 9C. Authorizers must issue renewal application guidance that provides an opportunity for schools to augment their performance record and discuss improvements and future plans.
- 9D. *Ability to have a differentiated process for renewal of high-performing charter schools.*
- 9E. Authorizers must use clear criteria for renewal and nonrenewal/revocation.
- 9F. Authorizers must ground renewal decisions based on evidence regarding the school's performance over the term of the charter contract in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter contract.
- 9G. *Requirement that authorizers close chronically low-performing charter schools unless exceptional circumstances exist.*
- 9H. Authorizers must have the authority to vary length of charter renewal contract terms based on performance or other issues.
- 9I. Authorizers must provide charter schools with timely notification of potential revocation or nonrenewal (including reasons) and reasonable time to respond.
- 9J. Authorizers must provide charter schools with due process for nonrenewal and revocation decisions (e.g., public hearing, submission of evidence).
- 9K. All charter renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions must be made in a public meeting, with authorizers stating reasons for nonrenewals and revocations in writing.
- 9L. Authorizers must have school closure protocols to ensure timely parent notification, orderly student and record transitions, and property and asset disposition.
- 9M. *Any transfer of charter contracts from one authorizer to another are only allowed if they are approved by the state.*

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- 0 The state law does not include any of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.
- 1 The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.
- 2 The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.
- 3 The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.
- 4 The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

10 | Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers (ESPs) Allowed

Criteria includes:

- 10A. All types of educational service providers (both for-profit and nonprofit) are allowed to operate all or parts of schools.
- 10B. The charter application requires (1) performance data for all current and past schools operated by the ESP, and (2) explanation and evidence of the ESP's capacity for successful growth while maintaining quality in existing schools.
- 10C. A performance contract is required between the independent charter school board and the ESP, with such contract approved by the school's authorizer.
- 10D. School governing boards operate as entities completely independent of any ESP, *individuals compensated by an ESP are prohibited from serving as voting members on such boards*, and existing and potential conflicts of interest between the two entities are required to be disclosed and explained in the charter application.
- 10E. *Provides that charter school governing boards must have access to ESP records necessary to oversee the ESP contract.*
- 10F. *An ESP must annually provide information to its charter school governing board on how that ESP spends public funding it receives when the ESP is performing a public function under applicable state law.*
- 10G. *Requires that similar criminal history record checks and fingerprinting requirements applicable to other public schools shall also be mandatory for on-site employees of ESPs who regularly come into contact with students.*

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- 0 The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.
- 1 The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.
- 2 The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.
- 3 The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.
- 4 The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

11 | Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter Public School Boards

Criteria includes:

- 11A. Fiscally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to receive and disburse funds; incur debt; and pledge, assign, or encumber assets as collateral).
- 11B. Legally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to enter into contracts and leases, sue and be sued in their own names, and acquire real property).
- 11C. Independent school governing boards created specifically to govern their charter schools.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- 0 The state law does not include any of the model law’s provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.
- 1 The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.
- 2 The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.
- 3 The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.
- 4 The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

12 | Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures

Criteria includes:

- 12A. Open enrollment to any student in the state.
- 12B. *Anti-discrimination provisions regarding admissions.*
- 12C. Required enrollment preferences for previously enrolled students within conversions and for prior-year students within charter schools.
- 12D. Lottery requirements.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

13 | Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations

Criteria includes:

- 13A. Exemptions from all laws, except those covering health, safety, civil rights, student accountability, employee criminal history checks, open meetings, freedom of information, and generally accepted accounting principles.
- 13B. Exemption from state teacher certification requirements.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

0	The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from state and district laws and regulations, does not allow schools to apply for exemptions, and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.
	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. OR
1	The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. OR The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.
2	There were six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in this cell. ⁹
3	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.
4	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.

⁹ | The six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in 2 for Component 13 are: (1) The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. (2) The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations, requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charter schools, and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charter schools. (3) The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. (4) The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements. (5) The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions. (6) The state law provides some flexibility from state and district laws and regulations for some schools but less for others and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

14 | Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption

Whereby:

- 14A. Charter schools authorized by nonlocal board authorizers are exempt from participation in any outside collective bargaining agreements.
- 14B. Charter schools authorized by local boards are exempt from participation in any district collective bargaining agreements.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions. |
| 1 | The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.
OR
The state law requires all charter school staff to be employees of the local school district but exempts the staff from state education employment laws. |
| 2 | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools. |
| 3 | The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions). |
| 4 | The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

15 | Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed

Whereby an independent charter school board may:

- 15A. Oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.
- 15B. Hold multiple charter contracts with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

0 The state law prohibits these arrangements.

1 The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.

2 The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.

OR
2 The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools.

3 The state law allows either of these arrangements but requires only schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.

OR
3 The state law allows either of these arrangements for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.

4 The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access

Whereby:

- 16A. Laws or regulations explicitly state that charter school students and employees are eligible to participate in all extracurricular and interscholastic activities available to noncharter public school students and employees.
- 16B. Laws or regulations explicitly allow charter school students in schools not providing extracurricular and interscholastic activities to have access to those activities at noncharter public schools.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access for some or all charter students. |
| 1 | The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. |
| 2 | The state law provides either eligibility or access (but not both) for some types of charter schools (but not all). |
| 3 | The state law provides both eligibility and access to students but not employees.
OR
The state law provides either eligibility or access but not both. |
| 4 | The state law provides both eligibility and access. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

17 | Clear Provisions Regarding Special Education Responsibilities

Criteria includes:

- 17A. Clarity regarding which entity is the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing special education services.
- 17B. *Clarity regarding the flow of federal, state, and local special education funds to the designated LEA.*
- 17C. Clarity regarding funding for low-incident, high-cost services for charter schools (in the same amount and/or in a manner similar to other LEAs).
- 17D. *Clarity that charter schools have access to all regional and state services and supports available to traditional districts.*

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions regarding special education responsibilities. |
| 1 | The state law contains a small number of the model law's provisions regarding special education responsibilities. |
| 2 | The state law contains some of the model law's provisions regarding special education responsibilities. |
| 3 | The state law contains many of the model law's provisions regarding special education responsibilities. |
| 4 | The state law contains all of the model law's provisions regarding special education responsibilities. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

18 | Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding

Criteria includes:

- 18A. Equitable operational funding statutorily driven.
- 18B. Equal access to all applicable categorical federal and state funding and clear guidance on the pass-through of such funds.
- 18C. Funding for transportation similar to school districts.
- 18D. *Annual report offering district and charter school funding comparisons and including annual recommendations to the legislature for any needed equity enhancements.*

Weight Evaluation Criteria

0 The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30.0 percent.

OR

The state law includes a small number or none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.

1 The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20.0 percent and 29.9 percent.

OR

The state law includes some or many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.

2 The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10.0 percent and 19.9 percent.

3 The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10.0 percent.

4 The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates no equity gap between district and charter students.

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

19 | Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities

Criteria includes:

Facilities Funding

- 19A. A per-pupil facilities allowance that annually reflects actual average district capital costs.
- 19B. A state grant program for charter school facilities.
- 19C. Equal access to existing state facilities programs available to noncharter public schools.

Access to Public Space

- 19D. *A requirement for districts to provide school district space or funding to charter schools if the majority of that schools' students reside in that district.*
- 19E. Right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market value a closed, unused, or underused public school facility or property.

Access to Financing Tools

- 19F. A state loan program for charter school facilities.
- 19G. Equal access to tax-exempt bonding authorities or allowing charter schools to have their own bonding authority.
- 19H. *Pledging the moral obligation of the state to help charter schools obtain more favorable bond financing terms.*
- 19I. *The creation and funding of a state charter school debt reserve fund.*
- 19J. *The inclusion of charter schools in school district bonding and mill levy requests.*
- 19K. A mechanism to provide credit enhancement for charter school facilities.

Other

- 19L. *Charter schools allowed to contract at or below fair market value with a school district, a college or university, or any other public or for-profit or nonprofit private entity for the use of facility for a school building.*
- 19M. *Certain entities allowed to provide space to charter schools within their facilities under their preexisting zoning and land use designations.*
- 19N. Charter school facilities exempt from ad valorem taxes and other assessment fees not applicable to other public schools.

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions regarding equitable access to capital funding and facilities. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions regarding equitable access to capital funding and facilities. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions regarding equitable access to capital funding and facilities. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions regarding equitable access to capital funding and facilities. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions regarding equitable access to capital funding and facilities. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

20 | Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems

Whereby:

- 20A. Charter schools have access to relevant state retirement systems available to other public schools.
- 20B. Charter schools have the option to participate (i.e., not required).

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | The state law does not provide access to the relevant employee retirement systems. |
| 1 | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools. |
| 2 | The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems. |
| 3 | The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools. |
| 4 | The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation. |

APPENDIX: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE
MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

21 | Full-Time Virtual Charter School Provisions (if such schools allowed by state)

Criteria includes:

- 21A. *An authorizing structure whereby full-time virtual charter schools that serve students from more than one district may be approved only by an authorizer with statewide chartering jurisdiction and authority, full-time virtual charter schools that serve students from one school district may be authorized by that school district, and a cap is placed on the total amount of funding that an authorizer may withhold from a full-time virtual charter school.*
- 21B. *Legally permissible criteria and processes for enrollment based on the existence of supports needed for student success.*
- 21C. *Enrollment level provisions that establish maximum enrollment levels for each year of a charter contract, with any increases in enrollment from one year to the next based on whether the school meets its performance requirements.*
- 21D. *Accountability provisions that include virtual-specific goals regarding student enrollment, attendance, engagement, achievement, truancy, and attrition.*
- 21E. *Funding levels per student based on costs proposed and justified by the operators.*
- 21F. *Performance-based funding whereby full-time virtual charter schools are funded via a performance-based funding system based on meeting the accountability performance provisions.*

Weight Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions related to full-time virtual charter schools. |
| 1 | The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions related to full-time virtual charter schools. |
| 2 | The state law includes some of the model law's provisions related to full-time virtual charter schools. |
| 3 | The state law includes many of the model law's provisions related to full-time virtual charter schools. |
| 4 | The state law includes all of the model law's provisions related to full-time virtual charter schools. |



The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. Our Mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement by fostering a strong charter movement.

Vision

Today there are 6,939 charter schools in 43 states and Washington D.C., educating 3.1 million students across America. However, in most communities the demand for charter schools far outpaces the supply. The execution of our new strategic plan will play a vital role in expanding the number of charter schools over the next three years. By 2020 we expect to have 10,000 charters schools serve over 4 million students.

Values

When given the option, parents increasingly are choosing to enroll their children in charter school and providing families with high-quality educational options for their child is the fuel that drives our work. To support the growth of high-performing charter schools, we work to:

- Increase public funding for charter schools;
- Create a climate in which charter schools can grow; and
- Improve the overall health of the movement

Through our advocacy efforts at the federal and state levels, our legal activities, and our national communications work, we ensure lawmakers, the media, opinion-shapers, public charter school leaders, thought leaders, and the general public understand what charter schools are, the promise they hold for our children, and how best to promote the growth of high-quality schools nationwide.

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 1010

Washington, DC 20005

202.289.2700

publiccharters.org

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