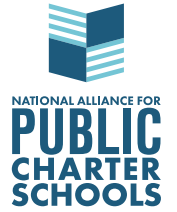


MEASURING UP TO THE MODEL

A RANKING OF STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS

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NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS



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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic upended just about every aspect of our lives in 2020, including the work of state lawmakers across the country. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, most state legislatures adjourned. When state legislative bodies did reconvene later in the year, most primarily focused on enacting legislation to deal with the pandemic. Given this situation, many charter school advocates geared their work toward making sure that charter schools were treated fairly by their state officials in any policymaking regarding schooling during the pandemic.

As a result, there weren't as many charter school bills enacted in 2020 as in the past. In some states, the lack of such bills was mostly good news, as charter school opponents were pushing harmful anti-charter school bills. In other states, this development was bad news, as pro-charter school bills had to be shelved for the session. Because there were relatively few charter school bills enacted in 2020, we didn't see much movement in our annual state charter school laws rankings this year.

As state legislatures convene for their 2021 sessions, we expect much of their focus will continue to be on the pandemic. However, we also anticipate that there might be more opportunities to enact charter school bills in several states. As we navigate some of the most challenging political terrain that charter schools have ever faced, we hope this report helps charter school supporters defeat harmful bills while boosting their efforts to get helpful legislation enacted.



Nina Rees
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KEY TAKEAWAYS

Some key takeaways from this year's rankings include:

- ▶ For the sixth year in a row, **Indiana** has the nation's strongest charter school law in the country, ranking No. 1 (out of 45). Indiana's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. Indiana has also made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charter schools, although work remains to be done.
- ▶ The **Top 10** includes a mixture of states with more mature movements (**Indiana** at No. 1, **Colorado** at No. 2, **Minnesota** at No. 4, **Florida** at No. 7, **Louisiana** at No. 8, and the **District of Columbia**. at No. 10¹) and states with newer movements (**Washington** at No. 3, **Alabama** at No. 5, **Mississippi** at No. 6, and **Maine** at No. 9). The fact that these states are in the Top 10 shows that many states with mature movements continue to strengthen their laws based on what's working (and what's not working) and that many states new to the movement rely heavily on those lessons learned so they don't repeat the mistakes of the states that came before them.
- ▶ States that are enacting laws for the first time and states that are overhauling their laws are bypassing states that were previously more highly ranked, such as **Massachusetts**, **Arizona**, and **New York**. That doesn't mean that the laws have gotten weaker in the states being bypassed. They remain strong. What it does mean, though, is that more states have better laws across the country, a good place to be if you believe that all states should have high-quality charter school laws
- ▶ **Maryland** has the nation's weakest charter school law, ranking No. 45 (out of 45). While Maryland's law does not cap charter public school growth, it allows only district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools. Rounding out the bottom five states are **Iowa** (No. 41), **Wyoming** (No. 42), **Alaska** (No. 43), and **Kansas** (No. 44).

1 | For the purposes of this report, the District of Columbia is treated as a state.

2 | We did not include Kentucky in this year's report. Kentucky enacted its charter school law in 2017. For a variety of reasons, the state enacted a temporary funding mechanism for charter schools that year. Since that time, Kentucky has failed to enact a new funding mechanism, essentially making the charter school law meaningless. Therefore, we decided to remove the state from the report. We will include Kentucky again once the state enacts a new funding mechanism.



MEASURING UP TO THE MODEL

TABLE 1: 2021 STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

RANKING	STATE	SCORE
1	Indiana	181
2	Colorado	181
3	Washington	179
4	Minnesota	178
5	Alabama	177
6	Mississippi	169
7	Florida	169
8	Louisiana	168
9	Maine	167
10	District of Columbia	166
11	Nevada	166
12	Massachusetts	162
13	Arizona	160
14	North Carolina	160
15	Delaware	160
16	Georgia	158
17	Idaho	157
18	New York	156
19	South Carolina	155
20	California	154
21	Utah	154
22	Oklahoma	153
23	▲3 New Hampshire	153

RANKING	STATE	SCORE
24	▼1 Ohio	153
25	▼1 Tennessee	153
26	▼1 New Mexico	152
27	Missouri	147
28	Michigan	147
29	Texas	145
30	▲1 Hawaii	143 ▲2
31	▼1 Arkansas	141
32	West Virginia	134
33	Oregon	131
34	New Jersey	131
35	Pennsylvania	131
36	Connecticut	126
37	▲1 Rhode Island	126 ▲3
38	▼1 Illinois	124
39	Wisconsin	109
40	Virginia	94
41	Iowa	91
42	Wyoming	87
43	Alaska	83
44	Kansas	69
45	Maryland	61

NOTE: THE TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE IS 240.

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 couple of areas—such as caps 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 school movements will benefit from a supportive legal and policy environment.

3 | In case of a tie, we first looked at each state's total weighted score for the four "quality control" components (#6, #7, #8, and #9). 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 three autonomy components (#11, #13, and #14). Whichever state had the highest score was ranked higher.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF A STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

In this report, we evaluate each state’s public charter 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.

2021 STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

TABLE 2: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF A STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

#	ESSENTIAL COMPONENT
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	Non-district Authorizers Available , 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 School Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes , including comprehensive academic, operational, and governance application requirements, with such applications reviewed and acted on following professional authorizer standards.
7	Performance-based Charter School 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.

2021 STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

TABLE 2: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF A STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

#	ESSENTIAL COMPONENT
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	Multi-school Charter Contract and/or Multi-charter School 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, and access to financing tools.
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 17 of the 21 components, the leading states received a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 4. For Components 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.

2021 STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

TABLE 3: LEADING STATES FOR THE 21 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE MODEL LAW

ESSENTIAL COMPONENT	
1	<p>No Caps (23 States) Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming</p>
2	<p>A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed (42 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</p>
3	<p>Non-district Authorizers Available (24 states) Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin</p>
4	<p>Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required (12 states) Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington</p>
5	<p>Adequate Authorizer Funding (9 states): Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington</p>
6	<p>Transparent Charter School Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes (4 states) Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Washington</p>
7	<p>Performance-based Charter School Contracts Required (7 states) Alabama, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Washington</p>
8	<p>Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes (1 state) Washington</p>

2021 STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

TABLE 3: LEADING STATES FOR THE 21 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE MODEL LAW

ESSENTIAL COMPONENT

9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions (23 states) Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington, West Virginia
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers (1 state) Florida
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards (30 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, West Virginia, Wisconsin
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures (13 states) Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations (6 states) Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, West Virginia
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption (26 states) Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
15	Multi-school Charter Contracts and/or Multi-charter School Contract Boards Allowed (18 states) Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access (6 states) Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, South Carolina, Utah, Washington
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities (4 states) California, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding (4 states) Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Utah
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities (10 states) California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, New Mexico, Tennessee, Texas, Utah
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems (15 states) Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia
21	Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions (0 states)

ALABAMA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2015

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

5th

OUT OF 45

177

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alabama’s law contains a cap that allows for ample growth, includes a state authorizing pathway, has strong quality-control components, gives operational autonomy to public charter 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	598
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	32%
Black	64%
Hispanic	1%
Asian	1%
Other	2%
FRPL Participation Rate	56%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	2
Public School Share	0%
School Openings	1

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	3	2	6
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	4	4	16
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			177

ALASKA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

43rd

OUT OF 45

83

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alaska’s law does not cap public charter school growth and includes an appellate mechanism for charter school applicants rejected by districts, 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	7,126
Public School Student Enrollment Share	6%
Student Demographics	
White	65%
Black	1%
Hispanic	5%
Asian	2%
Other	27%
FRPL Participation Rate	16%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	30
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	0	3	0
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	1	4	4
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	0	2	0
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	0	3	0
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	1	2	2
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			83

ARIZONA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1994

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

13th
OUT OF 45

160
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Arizona’s law does not have a cap on public charter school growth, allows multiple nondistrict 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	207,923
Public School Student Enrollment Share	22%
Student Demographics	
White	43%
Black	6%
Hispanic	39%
Asian	6%
Other	7%
FRPL Participation Rate	24%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	557
Public School Share	26%
School Openings	16

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	3	3	9
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			160

ARKANSAS

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

31st
OUT OF 45
↓1

141
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Potential areas for improvement include 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	35,432
Public School Student Enrollment Share	8%
Student Demographics	
White	51%
Black	30%
Hispanic	13%
Asian	3%
Other	4%
FRPL Participation Rate	62%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	86
Public School Share	8%
School Openings	6

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	2	3	6
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			141

CALIFORNIA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1992

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

20th

OUT OF 45

154

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

California’s law has a cap that allows ample growth, provides an appellate process, and provides some autonomy, but it lacks certain aspects of the model law’s accountability provisions. It has also made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to public charter 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	654,549
Public School Student Enrollment Share	12%
Student Demographics	
White	28%
Black	8%
Hispanic	51%
Asian	6%
Other	7%

FRPL Participation Rate 57%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	1,351
Public School Share	13%
School Openings	133

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	2	3	6
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	1	4	4
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	3	3	9
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	3	2	6
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	4	2	8
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	2	3	6
TOTAL SCORE			154

COLORADO

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1993

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

2nd

OUT OF 45

181

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Colorado’s law does not cap public charter school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, and provides multiple authorizers and a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. It has also 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 the law include continuing to strengthen equitable access to capital funding and facilities and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	125,017
Public School Student Enrollment Share	16%
Student Demographics	
White	52%
Black	6%
Hispanic	33%
Asian	4%
Other	5%

FRPL Participation Rate 35%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	261
Public School Share	14%
School Openings	13

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	4	1	4
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	3	4	12
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			181

CONNECTICUT

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

36th

OUT OF 45

126

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Connecticut’s law contains significant restrictions on growth and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to public charter schools. Also, it creates a nondistrict authorizing option, but it connects the school approval and opening process to legislative decisions about funding in a way that significantly inhibits school approvals and openings.

Much improvement is still needed in Connecticut’s charter school law, including lifting its remaining restrictions on growth and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	10,433
Public School Student Enrollment Share	2%
Student Demographics	
White	7%
Black	59%
Hispanic	30%
Asian	2%
Other	2%

FRPL Participation Rate 66%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	25
Public School Share	2%
School Openings	1

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	1	3	3
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	1	3	3
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	0	2	0
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			126

DELAWARE

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

15th
OUT OF 45

152/160
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Delaware’s law does not cap public charter school growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its public charter schools, but it provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Delaware’s law still needs improvement in several areas, including ensuring equitable operational and facilities funding, ensuring adequate authorizing funding, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

*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 152 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 67 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 67 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (160).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	16,086
Public School Student Enrollment Share	13%
Student Demographics	
White	40%
Black	36%
Hispanic	13%
Asian	7%
Other	4%

FRPL Participation Rate N/A

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	23
Public School Share	10%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			152/160

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

10th

OUT OF 45

166

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

D.C.'s law has a cap on public charter 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 funding for charter schools.

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			166

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	39,085
Public School Student Enrollment Share	80%
Student Demographics	
White	7%
Black	78%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	1%
Other	3%

FRPL Participation Rate N/A

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	122
Public School Share	52%
School Openings	5

FLORIDA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

7th
OUT OF 45

169
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Florida’s law does not have a cap on public charter school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. It has also 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 include continuing to strengthen equitable funding, creating authorizer accountability requirements, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	312,367
Public School Student Enrollment Share	12%
Student Demographics	
White	31%
Black	20%
Hispanic	43%
Asian	3%
Other	4%
FRPL Participation Rate	49%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	654
Public School Share	16%
School Openings	27

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	4	2	8
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	3	3	9
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	4	1	4
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			169

GEORGIA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1994

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

16th
OUT OF 45

158
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Georgia’s law does not cap public charter school growth, provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, and provides adequate autonomy and accountability. It has also 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 include continuing to strengthen equitable funding, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, allowing multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter school contract boards, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	69,855
Public School Student Enrollment Share	4%
Student Demographics	
White	37%
Black	46%
Hispanic	10%
Asian	3%
Other	4%
FRPL Participation Rate	50%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	94
Public School Share	4%
School Openings	3

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	3	2	6
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	3	3	9
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			158

HAWAII

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1994

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

30th

OUT OF 45

↑1

143

TOTAL POINTS

↑2

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hawaii’s law does not cap public charter school growth, includes an independent charter board as the authorizer, 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 decision-making processes, exempting charter schools from collective bargaining agreements, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

Hawaii’s score increased because of clarification about the policies for Component #17 (Clear Provisions Regarding Special Education Responsibilities).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	11,565
Public School Student Enrollment Share	7%
Student Demographics	
White	27%
Black	1%
Hispanic	14%
Asian	10%
Other	48%
FRPL Participation Rate	46%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	36
Public School Share	12%
School Openings	1

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	3	2	6
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			143

IDAHO

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1998

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

17th
OUT OF 45

157
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	23,552
Public School Student Enrollment Share	8%
Student Demographics	
White	80%
Black	1%
Hispanic	12%
Asian	2%
Other	6%

FRPL Participation Rate 15%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	62
Public School Share	8%
School Openings	5

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			157

ILLINOIS

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

38th

OUT OF 45

↓1

124

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Illinois' law provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, it contains caps on charter school growth, only allows charter schools facing nonrenewal and revocation decisions by districts to appeal to the state (instead of also allowing applicants for new charter schools to appeal district denials to the state), and provides inequitable facilities funding to charter schools.

Illinois' law needs major work in several areas—most significantly, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, creating one or more nondistrict authorizers or allowing applicants for new charter schools to appeal denials to the state, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	2	3	6
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	1	3	3
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	3	3	9
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	3	4	12
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	1	2	2
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			124

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	64,795
Public School Student Enrollment Share	3%
Student Demographics	
White	3%
Black	53%
Hispanic	41%
Asian	1%
Other	2%

FRPL Participation Rate 84%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	141
Public School Share	3%
School Openings	1

INDIANA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2001

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

1st
OUT OF 45

181
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Indiana’s law does not cap public charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. It has also made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to public 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	49,813
Public School Student Enrollment Share	5%
Student Demographics	
White	40%
Black	39%
Hispanic	14%
Asian	1%
Other	6%

FRPL Participation Rate 72%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	104
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	11

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	3	2	6
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	4	2	8
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			181

IOWA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2002

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

41st
OUT OF 45

91
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Iowa’s law does not cap public charter school growth, it allows only 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	442
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	43%
Black	28%
Hispanic	10%
Asian	3%
Other	16%
FRPL Participation Rate	65%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	3
Public School Share	0%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	2	4	8
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	1	3	3
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	0	3	0
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	0	4	0
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			91

KANSAS

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1994

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

44th

OUT OF 45

69

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Kansas’ law does not cap public charter school growth, it allows only 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	3,077
Public School Student Enrollment Share	1%
Student Demographics	
White	75%
Black	6%
Hispanic	12%
Asian	1%
Other	6%
FRPL Participation Rate	10%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	9
Public School Share	1%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	0	3	0
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	1	4	4
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	0	3	0
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	0	2	0
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			69

LOUISIANA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

8th

OUT OF 45

168

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Louisiana’s law does not cap public charter 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	86,437
Public School Student Enrollment Share	14%
Student Demographics	
White	20%
Black	69%
Hispanic	7%
Asian	1%
Other	2%

FRPL Participation Rate 61%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	156
Public School Share	11%
School Openings	12

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	4	4	16
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			168

MAINE

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2011

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

9th

OUT OF 45

167

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Maine’s law allows multiple authorizers via districts and a statewide authorizer, has strong quality-control components, provides operational autonomy to public charter schools, and provides equitable operational funding to charter schools. The three major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 10 charter schools, a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charter-school 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 charter schools, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	2,453
Public School Student Enrollment Share	1%
Student Demographics	
White	92%
Black	2%
Hispanic	2%
Asian	1%
Other	4%
FRPL Participation Rate	44%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	9
Public School Share	2%
School Openings	1

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	0	3	0
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			167

MARYLAND

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2003

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

45th
OUT OF 45

58/61
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Maryland’s law does not cap public charter school growth, it allows only 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.

* Since Maryland does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. We converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Maryland received 58 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 26 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 26 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (61).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	25,194
Public School Student Enrollment Share	3%
Student Demographics	
White	11%
Black	77%
Hispanic	8%
Asian	2%
Other	3%
FRPL Participation Rate	76%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	51
Public School Share	4%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	0	3	0
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	0	4	0
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	1	4	4
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	0	2	0
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	0	3	0
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	0	2	0
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			58/61

MASSACHUSETTS

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1993

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

12th
OUT OF 45

154/162
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Massachusetts' law includes a state authorizing pathway and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charter schools, but it contains a variety of caps on charter school growth 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.

* 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 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).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	46,954
Public School Student Enrollment Share	5%
Student Demographics	
White	28%
Black	30%
Hispanic	34%
Asian	5%
Other	4%
FRPL Participation Rate	N/A
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	87
Public School Share	5%
School Openings	3

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	1	3	3
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			154/162

MICHIGAN

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1993

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

28th

OUT OF 45

147

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	146,420
Public School Student Enrollment Share	11%
Student Demographics	
White	33%
Black	50%
Hispanic	10%
Asian	3%
Other	5%

FRPL Participation Rate 75%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	370
Public School Share	11%
School Openings	17

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			147

MINNESOTA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1991

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

4th

OUT OF 45

178

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Minnesota’s law does not cap public charter 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 funding and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	59,492
Public School Student Enrollment Share	7%
Student Demographics	
White	40%
Black	27%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	16%
Other	6%

FRPL Participation Rate 53%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	233
Public School Share	10%
School Openings	19

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	4	1	4
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			178

MISSISSIPPI

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2010

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

6th

OUT OF 45

169

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mississippi’s law contains a cap with room for ample growth, includes a state authorizer, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and includes equitable 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 and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	2	3	6
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	4	4	16
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			169

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	1,607
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	1%
Black	98%
Hispanic	0%
Asian	0%
Other	0%
FRPL Participation Rate	98%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	5
Public School Share	1%
School Openings	2

MISSOURI

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1998

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

27th

OUT OF 45

147

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Missouri’s law is largely cap-free and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charter 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 providing multiple authorizing options in all districts and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	24,477
Public School Student Enrollment Share	3%
Student Demographics	
White	13%
Black	59%
Hispanic	17%
Asian	1%
Other	9%
FRPL Participation Rate	80%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	76
Public School Share	3%
School Openings	11

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	2	3	6
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			147

NEVADA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1997

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

11th
OUT OF 45

166
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nevada’s law does not have a cap on public charter school growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. Still, the law provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities and continuing to strengthen accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	52,457
Public School Student Enrollment Share	12%
Student Demographics	
White	38%
Black	12%
Hispanic	33%
Asian	6%
Other	11%
FRPL Participation Rate	39%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	82
Public School Share	12%
School Openings	8

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	3	2	6
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			166

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

23rd

OUT OF 45

↑3

153

TOTAL POINTS

↑2

RECOMMENDATIONS

While New Hampshire’s law is cap-free, provides multiple authorizing options, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charter schools, the law provides inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement in New Hampshire’s charter school law include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

New Hampshire’s score increased because of clarification about the policies for Component #17 (Clear Provisions Regarding Special Education Responsibilities).

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			153

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	3,934
Public School Student Enrollment Share	2%
Student Demographics	
White	81%
Black	2%
Hispanic	4%
Asian	8%
Other	5%

FRPL Participation Rate 19%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	35
Public School Share	7%
School Openings	4

NEW JERSEY

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

34th
OUT OF 45

124/131
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

* 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 124 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 54 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 54 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (131).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	51,999
Public School Student Enrollment Share	4%
Student Demographics	
White	7%
Black	50%
Hispanic	36%
Asian	6%
Other	2%
FRPL Participation Rate	70%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	111
Public School Share	4%
School Openings	2

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	2	3	6
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			124/131

NEW MEXICO

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1993

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

26th

OUT OF 45

↓1

152

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	26,640
Public School Student Enrollment Share	8%
Student Demographics	
White	30%
Black	2%
Hispanic	59%
Asian	1%
Other	8%

FRPL Participation Rate 57%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	97
Public School Share	10%
School Openings	4

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	2	3	6
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	3	2	6
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	3	2	6
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	3	4	12
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			152

NEW YORK

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1998

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

18th
OUT OF 45

148/156
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Potential areas for improvement include lifting the cap on public charter schools and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

* 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 148 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 65 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 65 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (156).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	147,345
Public School Student Enrollment Share	6%
Student Demographics	
White	6%
Black	53%
Hispanic	35%
Asian	3%
Other	3%
FRPL Participation Rate	79%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	311
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	19

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	1	3	3
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			148/156

NORTH CAROLINA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

14th
OUT OF 45

160
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	110,605
Public School Student Enrollment Share	8%
Student Demographics	
White	54%
Black	26%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	4%
Other	6%
FRPL Participation Rate	29%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	188
Public School Share	7%
School Openings	12

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			160

OHIO

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1997

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

24th

OUT OF 45

↓1

153

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Ohio’s law allows multiple authorizing entities and provides sufficient autonomy and accountability to public charter schools, it allows only brick-and-mortar startup charter schools in about 10% 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 decision-making processes, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	108,781
Public School Student Enrollment Share	7%
Student Demographics	
White	36%
Black	48%
Hispanic	8%
Asian	1%
Other	7%
FRPL Participation Rate	14%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	322
Public School Share	9%
School Openings	14

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	2	3	6
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	2	2	4
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	4	2	8
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			153

OKLAHOMA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1999

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

22nd

OUT OF 45

153

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Oklahoma’s law contains caps on public charter schools that allow for ample growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, and includes multiple authorizers or a robust appeals process for applicants (depending on the district in which the applicant is located). 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	38,425
Public School Student Enrollment Share	6%
Student Demographics	
White	47%
Black	14%
Hispanic	25%
Asian	1%
Other	14%

FRPL Participation Rate 70%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	59
Public School Share	3%
School Openings	4

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	2	1	2
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			153

OREGON

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1999

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

33rd

OUT OF 45

131

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Oregon’s law does not contain a cap on public charter 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	35,628
Public School Student Enrollment Share	7%
Student Demographics	
White	76%
Black	2%
Hispanic	13%
Asian	2%
Other	8%
FRPL Participation Rate	20%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	131
Public School Share	10%
School Openings	4

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	2	4	8
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			131

PENNSYLVANIA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1997

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

35th

OUT OF 45

131

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Pennsylvania’s law does not contain a cap on public charter school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charter schools, it primarily allows 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 multi-school charter contracts or multi-contract 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	143,201
Public School Student Enrollment Share	9%
Student Demographics	
White	32%
Black	43%
Hispanic	17%
Asian	3%
Other	5%
FRPL Participation Rate	69%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	186
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	3

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	2	4	8
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	0	2	0
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	4	2	8
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			131

RHODE ISLAND

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

37th
OUT OF 45
↑1

120/126
TOTAL POINTS
↑3

RECOMMENDATIONS

Rhode Island’s law includes a nondistrict authorizer and provides a fair amount of accountability, but it caps public charter school growth 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, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Rhode Island’s score increased because of clarification about the policies for Component #1 (No Caps).

* 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 120 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 51 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 51 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (126).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	9,531
Public School Student Enrollment Share	7%
Student Demographics	
White	22%
Black	16%
Hispanic	56%
Asian	2%
Other	5%
FRPL Participation Rate	69%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	36
Public School Share	10%
School Openings	4

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	2	3	6
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			120/126

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

19th
OUT OF 45

155
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Potential areas for improvement are ensuring equitable funding by increasing per-pupil funding, providing equitable access to capital funding, and ensuring access to vacant and underutilized facilities. Other areas are ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, allowing multi-school charter contracts or multi-contract governing boards, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	37,546
Public School Student Enrollment Share	5%
Student Demographics	
White	61%
Black	26%
Hispanic	8%
Asian	2%
Other	4%
FRPL Participation Rate	43%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	78
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	10

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	4	1	4
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			155

TENNESSEE

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2002

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

25th
OUT OF 45
↓1

146/153
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Tennessee’s law does not cap public charter school growth, provides an appellate process for public charter school applicants rejected by local school districts, and provides a fair amount of accountability, it affords insufficient autonomy 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, beefing up the requirements for charter school oversight, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

* 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 146 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 64 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 64 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (153).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	40,524
Public School Student Enrollment Share	4%
Student Demographics	
White	8%
Black	72%
Hispanic	18%
Asian	1%
Other	2%
FRPL Participation Rate	N/A
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	114
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	8

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	3	3	9
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			146/153

TEXAS

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

29th

OUT OF 45

145

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Texas’ law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state-authorized public charter schools than it does to district-authorized public charter 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. 29.

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

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	357,217
Public School Student Enrollment Share	7%
Student Demographics	
White	14%
Black	18%
Hispanic	62%
Asian	4%
Other	2%
FRPL Participation Rate	70%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	834
Public School Share	9%
School Openings	71

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	2	3	6
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	2	4	8
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			145

UTAH

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1998

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

21st
OUT OF 45

154
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Utah’s law contains a cap with room for ample growth and allows multiple authorizing entities. It has also made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to public 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, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	77,880
Public School Student Enrollment Share	13%
Student Demographics	
White	72%
Black	2%
Hispanic	19%
Asian	3%
Other	6%
FRPL Participation Rate	32%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	134
Public School Share	13%
School Openings	3

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	1	4	4
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	3	2	6
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	4	1	4
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	3	4	12
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	3	4	12
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE			154

VIRGINIA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1998

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

40th
OUT OF 45

89/94
TOTAL POINTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Virginia’s law does not contain a cap on public charter school growth, it only allows 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, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

* Since Virginia 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. Virginia received 89 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 39 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 39 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (94).

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	1,232
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	51%
Black	30%
Hispanic	8%
Asian	3%
Other	9%
FRPL Participation Rate	16%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	8
Public School Share	0%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	0	3	0
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	1	4	4
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE			89/94

WASHINGTON

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2016

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

3rd

OUT OF 45

179

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Washington’s law allows multiple authorizers through local school districts and a statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, and gives operational autonomy to public 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 inequitable funding for public charter school students.

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

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	3,352
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	38%
Black	29%
Hispanic	16%
Asian	4%
Other	13%
FRPL Participation Rate	52%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	12
Public School Share	1%
School Openings	2

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	2	3	6
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	3	2	6
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	4	2	8
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	4	4	16
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	4	4	16
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	3	3	9
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	4	1	4
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	3	2	6
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			179

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2019

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

32nd

OUT OF 45

134

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

West Virginia’s law provides sufficient autonomy and accountability, but it includes a cap that only provides for limited public charter school growth, only allows district authorizers, and doesn’t provide any facilities support.

Potential areas for improvement include expanding authorizing options, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and lifting the state’s cap on charter school growth.

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	1	3	3
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	0	3	0
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	3	4	12
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	0	2	0
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	0	4	0
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	4	2	8
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			134

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	N/A
Public School Student Enrollment Share	-%
Student Demographics	
White	-%
Black	-%
Hispanic	-%
Asian	-%
Other	-%

FRPL Participation Rate N/A

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	N/A
Public School Share	0%
School Openings	0

WISCONSIN

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1993

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

39th

OUT OF 45

109

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Potential areas for improvement include 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	44,489
Public School Student Enrollment Share	5%
Student Demographics	
White	48%
Black	21%
Hispanic	20%
Asian	6%
Other	5%
FRPL Participation Rate	49%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	236
Public School Share	11%
School Openings	11

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	1	4	4
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	2	3	6
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	1	2	2
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			109

WYOMING

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

42nd

OUT OF 45

87

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

While Wyoming’s law does not contain a cap on public charter school growth, it allows only 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.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	568
Public School Student Enrollment Share	1%
Student Demographics	
White	64%
Black	2%
Hispanic	19%
Asian	5%
Other	11%

FRPL Participation Rate 31%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	5
Public School Share	1%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	0	3	0
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	1	4	4
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			87

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This edition of *Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter Public School Laws* is the eleventh one produced by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. 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, Rubric, and Changes.

WEIGHTS

For our analysis comparing each state’s charter 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.

WEIGHTS	ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS
4	
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes
7	Performance-based Charter School Contracts Required
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities
3	
1	No Caps
3	Non-district Authorizers Available
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption
21	Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions
2	
2	A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multi-charter School 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 59 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 26 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 26 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (62).

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

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE MODEL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

1 NO CAPS

Whereby:

- 1A. No numeric or geographic limits are placed on the number of charter 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.
3	The state has a cap with room for ample growth OR The state does not have a cap but allows districts to restrict growth. Some districts have done so.
4	The state does not have a cap

2 A VARIETY OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ALLOWED

Including:

- 2A. New start-ups.
- 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 start-ups but not public school conversions.
4	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.

3 NON-DISTRICT AUTHORIZERS AVAILABLE

Including:

- 3A. The state allows an applicant anywhere in the state to apply directly to a non-district authorizer(s).

WEIGHT	EVALUATION CRITERIA
0	The state law does not provide applicants with access to a non-district authorizer(s).
1	The state law allows applicants for renewals to appeal district denials but it does not allow applicants for new schools to appeal district denials.
2	The state law allows applicants in some parts of the state to apply directly to a non-district authorizer(s).
3	The state law requires an applicant to apply to a district but allows the applicant to appeal a district denial to a non-district authorizer(s).
4	The state law allows an applicant anywhere in the state to apply directly to a non-district authorizer(s).

4 AUTHORIZER AND OVERALL PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM REQUIRE

Including:

- 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, a state board of education, a state department of education, a state commissioner of education, or a specifically named entity).
- 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.
- 4F. Periodic formal evaluation of overall state charter school program.

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.

5 ADEQUATE AUTHORIZER FUNDING

Including:

- 5A. A uniform statewide formula that guarantees annual authorizer funding that is not subject to annual legislative appropriations.
- 5B. Requirement to publicly report detailed 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.

6 TRANSPARENT CHARTER APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Including:

- 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 school 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.

7 PERFORMANCE-BASED CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS REQUIRED

With such contracts:

- 7A. Being created as a separate document from the application and executed by 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 school contracts.
1	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter school contracts.
2	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter school contracts.
3	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter school contracts.
4	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter school contracts.

8 COMPREHENSIVE CHARTER SCHOOL MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION PROCESSES

Including:

- 8A. 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.

9 CLEAR PROCESSES FOR RENEWAL, NONRENEWAL, AND REVOCATION DECISIONS

Including:

- 9A. Authorizer must issue school performance renewal reports to schools whose charter contract 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 school contract in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter school 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 school contract renewal 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 allowed only 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.

10 TRANSPARENCY REGARDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS (ESPS)

Including:

- 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.

11 FISCALLY AND LEGALLY AUTONOMOUS SCHOOLS WITH INDEPENDENT CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

Including:

- 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.

12 CLEAR STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND LOTTERY PROCEDURES

Including:

- 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 enrollment and lottery procedures.
1	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.
2	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.
3	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.
4	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.

13 AUTOMATIC EXEMPTIONS FROM MANY STATE AND DISTRICT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Including:

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

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.
1	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 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. ¹¹
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.

14 AUTOMATIC COLLECTIVE BARGAINING EXEMPTION

Whereby:

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

11 | 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.

15 MULTI-SCHOOL CHARTER CONTRACTS AND/OR MULTI-CHARTER SCHOOL 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 school 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 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 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.

16 EXTRACURRICULAR AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY AND ACCESS

Whereby:

- 16A. Laws or regulations explicitly state that public school students and employees are eligible to participate in all extracurricular and interscholastic activities available to district 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 district public schools.

WEIGHT	EVALUATION CRITERIA
0	The state law prohibits eligibility and access for some or all charter school students.
1	The state law is silent about charter school 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.

17 CLEAR PROVISIONS REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Including:

- 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 charter schools.
- 17C. Clarity regarding funding for low-incident, high-cost services for charter schools.
- 17D. Clarity that charter schools have access to all regional and state services and supports available to 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.

18 EQUITABLE OPERATIONAL FUNDING AND EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL STATE AND FEDERAL CATEGORICAL FUNDING

Including:

- 18A. Equitable operational funding statutorily driven.
- 18B. Equal access to all applicable categorical federal and state funding.
- 18C. Funding for transportation similar to 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 school 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 any equity funding gap between district and charter school 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 school 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 any equity funding gap between district and charter school 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 school 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 school 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 school students.

19 EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CAPITAL FUNDING AND FACILITIES

Including:

Facilities Funding

- 19A. A per-pupil facilities allowance that annually reflects actual average district capital costs.
- 19B. A state grant program, such as one specific for charter school facilities or equal access to existing state facilities programs available to non-charter public schools.
- 19C. The inclusion of charter schools in school district mill levy requests regarding facilities.

Access to Public Space

- 19D. Access to public space, such as:
 - * A requirement for districts to provide district space or funding to charter schools if the majority of that schools' students reside in that district.
 - * 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

- 19E. Access to financing tools, such as:
 - * State loan program for charter school facilities.
 - * Equal access to tax-exempt bonding authorities or allowing charter schools to have their own bonding authority.
 - * Pledging the moral obligation of the state to help charter schools obtain more favorable bond financing terms.
 - * The creation and funding of a state charter school debt reserve fund.
 - * The inclusion of charter schools in school district bonding requests.
 - * A mechanism to provide credit enhancement for charter school facilities.

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.

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, but not the requirement, to participate.

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.

21 FULL-TIME VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL PROVISIONS (IF SUCH SCHOOLS ALLOWED BY STATE)

Including:

- 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 school 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.

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.



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