



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

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Acknowledgements

This report was written by Todd Ziebarth, senior vice president for state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. The analyses of the 43 state public charter school laws against the 20 essential components of the National Alliance's *A New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Public Charter Schools* were conducted by Ziebarth and Louann Bierlein Palmer, professor at Western Michigan University. While at Arizona State University's Morrison Institute in the early 1990s, Professor Bierlein Palmer developed the original list of essential components of a strong public charter school law.

Ziebarth and Bierlein Palmer shared their draft analyses with individuals in each of the 43 jurisdictions in this report, including individuals working at state departments of education, state charter school associations and resource centers, and other organizations. They want to acknowledge and thank them for their invaluable feedback. Any remaining errors and omissions in the state analyses and rankings are the responsibility of the authors, not the reviewers from the states.

Introduction

Over the past few years, there has been significant activity in state capitals to improve public charter school laws, and 2013 was no exception. Governors and legislators from coast to coast worked to lift caps that are constraining growth, enhance quality controls to better encourage the opening of great schools, and provide additional funding to decrease the equity gap between public charter school students and their counterparts in traditional public schools. All of this work was done with one simple goal in mind: create more high-quality public charter schools to meet the surging parental demand.

In 2013, three states partially or entirely removed caps on charters. As part of Mississippi's overhaul of its charter law, it will now allow 15 start-up and conversion charters to open per year, replacing a previous policy of allowing just 12 low-performing schools to convert to charter status — a major win for students in the Magnolia State. After several years of trying, Texas successfully raised its cap on state-authorized (or open-enrollment) charters from 215 to 305 over five years. New Hampshire enacted a budget that made some technical fixes to how it funds charter schools. With those improvements, the state board of education lifted its ill-advised moratorium on charters.

Thirteen states strengthened their authorizing environments this year. Most significant, four states (Arkansas, Idaho, Mississippi, and Texas) altered the types of entities that are allowed to authorize charters, while Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Nevada, and Texas passed quality-control measures, setting the stage for the growth of high-quality charters.

Twelve states improved their support for charter school funding and facilities. Florida increased its appropriation to support charter school facility costs from \$56 million to \$91 million; Idaho enacted and funded a per-pupil annual lease and mortgage relief formula to help offset facility costs; and Indiana appropriated \$91.2 million to pay off all outstanding loans to charters from its Common School Fund.

Before you dig into the pages that follow, we want to make one note about what you will find — and not find — in this year's report. Last year, in addition to our analyses, scores, and rankings for each state's charter law, we included a set of impact measures, categorized as "growth," "innovation," and "quality." We did not score these measures in last year's report but instead sought public input on the measures themselves and how best to analyze and score them in this year's report. While we have made good progress on this effort, we have decided to wait and release this work in mid-2014 as a second report focused on the health of the public charter school sector in each state.

Introduction

We continue to be encouraged that states with weak or no charter laws are basing new legislation on the experiences of states with stronger laws such as Minnesota, Colorado, and New York. While some states fell in the rankings simply because other states enacted stronger laws, it is important to note that these changes represent progress for the overall movement, not black eyes for any set of states.

We hope this report can be used by public charter school supporters to help them push for laws that support the creation of high-quality public charter schools, particularly for those students most in need of a better public school option.

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The 2014 State Charter School Law Rankings

Given all of the state legislative activity across the country, there were several notable moves within our rankings this year. Here are the major takeaways from this year's rankings:

- **Minnesota** remained at #1, but just barely.
- **Indiana** moved up seven spots from #9 to #2 because it enacted legislation that strengthened charter renewal processes, created statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, and created statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts.
- **Mississippi** moved up 29 spots from #43 to #14, the largest jump in rankings in the five years we have been producing this report. Mississippi enacted a significant overhaul of its charter school law in 2013. Under its previous charter school law, the state allowed only up to 12 chronically low-performing schools to convert to charter status; provided weak autonomy, accountability, and funding; and required applicants to apply to the state board of education. Under its new charter school law, the state allows up to 15 start-ups and conversions per year; provided strong autonomy, accountability, and operational and categorical funding; and created a new state authorizer to be the state's sole authorizing entity.
- **Idaho** moved up 12 spots from #32 to #20, the second largest jump in the 2014 rankings. Idaho enacted two major pieces of charter school legislation in 2013. The first expanded the types of entities that can serve as authorizers, created performance frameworks as part of charter contracts, and created charter renewal processes. The second provided facilities funding.
- **Nevada** moved up nine spots from #22 to #13. Nevada enacted two major pieces of charter school legislation in 2013. The first created performance frameworks as part of charter contracts, strengthened the application and renewal processes, and provided for stronger authorizer accountability. The second provided facilities support.
- **Delaware** moved up four spots from #21 to #17. Delaware enacted a major piece of charter school legislation in 2013 that created performance frameworks as part of charter contracts, created charter renewal processes, and provided facilities support.
- **Texas** moved up one spot from #24 to #23. Texas enacted a major piece of charter school legislation in 2013 that partially lifted the state's cap on charters, established clearer processes for renewals and closures, created a streamlined process for replicating and renewing successful schools, and instituted automatic closure requirements. Notwithstanding this legislation, its ranking increased only slightly because Texas' law often applies different requirements to state- versus district-authorized charters, with the provisions for state-authorized charters typically better than those for district-authorized charters. For example, the law's provisions for charter school autonomy are much better for state-authorized charters. In fact, if our analysis just focused on the provisions governing state-

The 2014 State Charter School Law Rankings

authorized charters, Texas' law would be in our top 10. However, since our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charters, Texas is ranked #23.

- **Missouri** moved down eight spots from #18 to #26, **Hawaii** moved down seven spots from #14 to #21, **Georgia** moved down six spots from #16 to #22, and **Pennsylvania** (#19 to #24) and Utah (#20 to #25) moved down five spots. These drops had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in these five states.
- Despite significant improvements in several states in 2013, our highest-scoring state only received 75 percent of the total points, meaning **there is still much work** to do to improve policies for charters, especially in the areas of operational and capital funding equity.

Table 1 below contains the full 2014 State Charter School Law Rankings.

Table 1: 2014 State Charter School Law Rankings¹

2014 Ranking	State	2014 Score	2013 Score	Score Difference	2013 Ranking	Ranking Difference
1	Minnesota	174	172	2	1	0
2	Indiana	170	148	22	9	7
3	Louisiana	167	151	16	6	3
4	Maine	163	166	-3	2	-2
5	Colorado	163	160	3	4	-1
6	Washington	162	161	1	3	-3
7	New York	158	148	10	8	1
8	Florida	156	151	5	5	-3
9	California	156	150	6	7	-2
10	D.C.	153	134	19	17	7
11	Massachusetts	151	145	6	11	0
12	New Mexico	150	147	3	10	-2
13	Nevada	150	126	24	22	9
14	Mississippi	149	39	110	43	29
15	South Carolina	147	141	6	12	-3
16	Arizona	147	141	6	13	-3
17	Delaware	146	127	19	21	4
18	Michigan	145	138	7	15	-3

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

The 2014 State Charter School Law Rankings

2014 Ranking	State	2014 Score	2013 Score	Score Difference	2013 Ranking	Ranking Difference
19	North Carolina	144	125	19	23	4
20	Idaho	141	110	31	32	12
21	Hawaii	140	139	1	14	-7
22	Georgia	138	135	3	16	-6
23	Texas	137	124	13	24	1
24	Pennsylvania	137	131	6	19	-5
25	Utah	134	131	3	20	-5
26	Missouri	132	132	0	18	-8
27	Oregon	129	120	9	26	-1
28	Ohio	129	117	12	27	-1
29	Arkansas	128	122	6	25	-4
30	New Hampshire	128	113	15	30	0
31	Illinois	125	117	8	28	-3
32	New Jersey	116	114	2	29	-3
33	Connecticut	114	110	4	31	-2
34	Rhode Island	113	108	5	35	1
35	Tennessee	112	109	3	33	-2
36	Oklahoma	112	109	3	34	-2
37	Wyoming	87	87	0	36	-1
38	Wisconsin	76	77	-1	37	-1
39	Virginia	72	69	3	39	0
40	Alaska	67	63	4	41	-1
41	Iowa	63	71	-8	38	-3
42	Kansas	60	63	-3	40	-2
43	Maryland	42	42	0	42	-1

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law

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

Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	
1	No Caps, on the growth of public charter schools in a state.
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed, including new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.
3	Multiple Authorizers Available, including non-local school board authorizers, to which charter applicants may directly apply.
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required, whereby all authorizers must affirm interest to become an authorizer (except for a legislatively-created state public 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 remedy.
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding, including provisions for guaranteed funding from authorizer fees, and public accountability for such expenditures.
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes, including comprehensive academic, operational, governance, and performance application requirements, with such applications reviewed and acted upon following professional authorizer standards.
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required, with such contracts created as separate post-application documents between authorizers and public charter schools detailing at least academic performance expectations, operational performance expectations, and school and authorizer rights and duties.
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes, so that all authorizers can verify public 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	Educational Service Providers Allowed, provided there is a clear performance contract between the independent public charter school board and the service provider and there are no conflicts of interest between the two entities.

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law

Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards, whereby public charter schools are created as autonomous entities with their boards having most powers granted to other traditional public school district boards.
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment and Lottery Procedures, which must be followed by all public charter schools.
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations, except for those covering health, safety, civil rights, student accountability, employee criminal history checks, open meetings, freedom of information requirements, and generally accepted accounting principles.
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption, whereby public 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 Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed, whereby an independent public charter school board may oversee multiple schools linked under a single charter contract or may hold multiple charter contracts.
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access, where: (a) public 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 traditional public school students and employees; and (b) students at charters that do not provide extra-curricular and interscholastic activities have access to those activities at traditional 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 (LEA) 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: a per-pupil facility allowance (equal to statewide average per-pupil capital costs); facility grant and revolving loan programs; a charter school bonding authority (or access to all relevant state tax-exempt bonding authorities available to all other public schools); the right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market value a closed or unused public school facility or property; and clarity that no state or local entity may impose any facility-related requirements that are stricter than those applied to traditional public schools.
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems, with the option to participate in a similar manner to all other public schools.

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

This year’s rankings report again details the leaders for each of the 20 essential components of the National Alliance model law — i.e., those states that received the highest rating for a particular component. For 18 of the 20 components, the leading states received a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 4. For Component #18 and Component #19, no states received a 4, so the leading states are those that received a rating of 3. Table 2 lists the leading states for each component.

Table 2: The Leading States For the 20 Essential Components of the National Alliance Model Law

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Leading States
1	No Caps	(21 States): Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	(32 states): Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	(10 states): Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	(3 states): District of Columbia, Hawaii, Washington
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	(4 states): Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Washington
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	(1 state): Louisiana
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	(1 state): Maine
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	(10 states): Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Leading States
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	(6 states): Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Mississippi, Washington
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	(5 states): Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	(27 states): Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, 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
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	(2 states): District of Columbia, Maine
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	(4 states): Arizona, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Oklahoma
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	(24 states): Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	(12 states): Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Texas, Washington
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	(1 state): South Carolina
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	(12 states): Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	(3 states): California, Indiana, New Mexico
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	(4 states): California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Utah
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	(13 states): Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah

ALASKA

Below is a general summary of Alaska's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/AK

40	Rank (out of 43)
67	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
27	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
5,980	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Alaska did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Alaska's score increased from 63 points in 2013 to 67 points this year. The score changed because of a change in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and to account for a change in our methodology for Component #16 (Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access) in the 2013 report.
- Its ranking went from #41 to #40.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Alaska's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access to extra-curricular and interscholastic activities at non-charter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					67

ARIZONA

Below is a general summary of Arizona's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/AZ

16	Rank (out of 43)
147	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
605	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
184,400	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Arizona made some modifications to its charter school law in 2013. While these changes are a step in the right direction, they were not significant enough to affect Arizona's score and ranking.
- Arizona's score increased from 141 points in 2013 to 147 points this year. The score changed because the state's caps on university authorizers expired for Component #1 (No Caps) and because of a change in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available).
- Its ranking went from #13 to #16. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Arizona.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement in Arizona's law include ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Arizona's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					147

ARKANSAS

Below is a general summary of Arkansas' law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/AR

29	Rank (out of 43)
128	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
39	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
16,051	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Arkansas made some modifications to its charter school law in 2013. While these changes are a step in the right direction, they were not significant enough to affect Arkansas' score and ranking.
- Arkansas' score increased from 122 points in 2013 to 128 points this year. The score changed because of a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required).
- Its ranking went from #25 to #29. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Arkansas.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include creating additional authorizing options, increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Arkansas' Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires some charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows an independent public charter school board to oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					128

CALIFORNIA

Below is a general summary of California's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/CA

9	Rank (out of 43)
156	Total Points (out of 228)
1992	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
1,130	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
519,000	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- California enacted a completely new funding formula for public education that similarly affects public charter schools and school districts. As part of the new funding system, the state enacted new accountability requirements for charters and districts. What exactly these new systems will look like will depend on regulations that must be adopted by the state board of education this year. As further details come to light, California's score may change.
- California's score increased from 150 points in 2013 to 156 points this year. The score changed because of a change in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #7 to #9.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement in its charter law include strengthening authorizer accountability, beefing up requirements for performance-based charter contracts, and enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers.

Summary of California's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows either of these arrangements, but only requires schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	3	2	6
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law does not explicitly address charter eligibility and access, but under the state's statutorily defined "permissive" education code, these practices are permitted since they are not expressly prohibited.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10%.	3	4	12
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					156

COLORADO

Below is a general summary of Colorado's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/CO

5	Rank (out of 43)
163	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
197	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
99,328	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Colorado did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Colorado's score increased from 160 points in 2013 to 163 points this year. The score changed because of a change in state policy for Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards). Its ranking went from #4 to #5.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement in the law include clarifying student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures and enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.

Summary of Colorado's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified unless a waiver is granted in the charter contract.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law doesn't directly address this issue, but has been consistently interpreted to exempt charter schools from district collective bargaining agreements.	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10% and 19.9%.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					163

CONNECTICUT

Below is a general summary of Connecticut's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/CT

33	Rank (out of 43)
114	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
18	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
7,131	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Connecticut did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Connecticut's score increased from 110 points in 2013 to 114 points this year. The score changed because of a change in state practice for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required), and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #20 (Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems). Its ranking went from #31 to #33.

Recommendations

- Much improvement is still needed in Connecticut's public charter school law, including lifting its remaining restrictions on growth, providing additional authorizing options, beefing up performance contracting requirements, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Connecticut's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	2	0
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10% and 19.9%.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					114

DELAWARE

Below is a general summary of Delaware's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/DE

17	Rank (out of 43)
146	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
21	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
10,370	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Delaware enacted a major piece of charter school legislation in 2013. This legislation created performance frameworks as part of charter contracts, created charter renewal processes, and provided facilities support.
- As a result, Delaware's score increased from 127 points in 2013 to 146 points this year. The score changed because of a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and changes in state policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions), and Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities). Its ranking went from #21 to #17.

Recommendations

- Delaware's law still needs improvement in several areas, including ensuring adequate authorizing funding and ensuring equitable operational funding.

Summary of Delaware's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for ensuring state funding for low-incident, high-cost services, but not for providing services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					146

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Below is a general summary of D.C.'s law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/DC

10	Rank (out of 43)
153	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
107	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
36,823	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- D.C. did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- D.C.'s score increased from 134 points in 2013 to 153 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), and Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed). Its ranking went from #17 to #10.

Recommendations

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

Summary of D.C.'s Law

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

FLORIDA

Below is a general summary of Florida's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/FL

8	Rank (out of 43)
156	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
625	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
239,996	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Florida made some modifications to its charter school law in 2013. While these changes are a step in the right direction, they were not significant enough to affect Florida's score and ranking.
- Florida's score increased from 151 points in 2013 to 156 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed).
- Its ranking went from #5 to #8. This drop had more to do with the changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Florida.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include creating authorizer accountability requirements and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Florida's Law

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

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

GEORGIA

Below is a general summary of Georgia's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/GA

22	Rank (out of 43)
138	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
110	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
69,392	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Georgia did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Georgia's score increased from 135 points in 2013 to 138 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #16 to #22. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Georgia.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards, and creating authorizer accountability requirements.

Summary of Georgia's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					138

HAWAII

Below is a general summary of Hawaii's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/HI

21	Rank (out of 43)
140	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
33	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
10,398	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Hawaii did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Hawaii's score increased from 139 points in 2013 to 140 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes) and Component #13 (Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations).
- Its ranking went from #14 to #21. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Hawaii.

Recommendations

- Hawaii's law still needs significant improvement in several areas, including beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; exempting charter schools from collective bargaining agreements; and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Hawaii's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					140

IDAHO

Below is a general summary of Idaho's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/ID

20	Rank (out of 43)
141	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
47	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
19,409	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Idaho enacted two major pieces of charter school legislation in 2013. The first expanded the types of entities that can serve as authorizers, created performance frameworks as part of charter contracts, and created charter renewal processes. The second provided facilities funding.
- As a result, Idaho's score increased from 110 points in 2013 to 141 points this year, the second biggest jump in this year's report and one of the largest in the five years that we have been producing this report. The score changed because of changes in state policies for Component #1 (No Caps), Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), Component #5 (Adequate Authorizer Funding), Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions), and Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities) and because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required).
- Its ranking went from #32 to #20 — again, the second biggest jump in this year's report and one of the largest in the five years that we have been producing this report.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards, creating authorizer accountability requirements, and ensuring equitable operational funding.

Summary of Idaho's Law

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

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

ILLINOIS

Below is a general summary of Illinois' law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/IL

31	Rank (out of 43)
125	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
145	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
63,175	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Illinois did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Illinois' score increased from 117 points in 2013 to 125 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #8 (Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes) and Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions). Its ranking went from #28 to #31.

Recommendations

- Illinois' law needs significant work in several areas, most significantly ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Illinois' Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but not others.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students between 10% and 19.9%.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools, but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
TOTAL POINTS					125

INDIANA

Below is a general summary of Indiana's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/IN

2	Rank (out of 43)
170	Total Points (out of 228)
2001	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
75	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
34,347	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Indiana enacted a major piece of charter school legislation in 2013. This legislation strengthened charter renewal processes, created statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, and created statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.
- As a result, Indiana's score increased from 148 points in 2013 to 170 points this year. The score changed because of changes in state policies for Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions), Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed), Component #15 (Multi-school Charter Contracts and/or Multi-charter Contract Boards Allowed), and Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities).
- Its ranking went from #9 to #2.

Recommendations

- One potential area of improvement in Indiana's law is providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Indiana's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10%.	3	4	12
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					170

IOWA

Below is a general summary of Iowa's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/IA

41	Rank (out of 43)
63	Total Points (out of 228)
2002	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
3	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
315	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Iowa did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Iowa's score decreased from 71 points in 2013 to 63 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes) and Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required). Its ranking went from #38 to #41.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Iowa's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions.	0	3	0
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	2	0
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	4	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				TOTAL POINTS	63

KANSAS

Below is a general summary of Kansas' law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/KS

42	Rank (out of 43)
60	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
11	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
2,466	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Kansas did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Kansas' score decreased from 63 points in 2013 to 60 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #40 to #42.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Kansas' Law

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

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

LOUISIANA

Below is a general summary of Louisiana's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/LA

3	Rank (out of 43)
167	Total Points (out of 228)
195	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
117	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
58,691	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Louisiana made some modifications to its charter school law and regulation in 2013.
- Louisiana's score increased from 151 points in 2013 to 167 points this year. Its ranking went from #6 to #3.
- The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and further clarification about recent changes to the specific policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed), Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards), and Component #15 (Multi-school Charter Contracts and/or Multi-charter Contract Boards Allowed).

Recommendations

- One potential area for improvement is ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Louisiana's Law

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

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

MAINE

Below is a general summary of Maine's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/ME

4	Rank (out of 43)
163	Total Points (out of 228)
2011	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
5	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
400	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Maine did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Maine's score decreased from 166 points in 2013 to 163 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #2 to #4.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement in the law are lifting the state's cap on state-authorized charters and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Maine's Law

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

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

MARYLAND

Below is a general summary of Maryland's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MD

43	Rank (out of 43)
42	Total Points (out of 228)
2003	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
52	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
21,397	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Maryland did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Maryland's score stayed at 42 points. Its ranking went from #42 to #43.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Maryland's Law

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

MARYLAND

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	0	4	0
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes none of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	0	4	0
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					42

MASSACHUSETTS

Below is a general summary of Massachusetts' law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MA

11	Rank (out of 43)
151	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
81	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
35,353	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Massachusetts did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Massachusetts' score increased from 145 points in 2013 to 151 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking remained at #11.

Recommendations

- 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.

Summary of Massachusetts' Law

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	2	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 schools and 99 schools are authorized.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

MASSACHUSETTS

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10% and 19.9%.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					151

MICHIGAN

Below is a general summary of Michigan's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MI

18	Rank (out of 43)
145	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
297	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
141,204	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Michigan did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Michigan's score increased from 138 points in 2013 to 145 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required) and Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards).
- Its ranking went from #15 to #18. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Michigan.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Michigan's Law

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

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

MINNESOTA

Below is a general summary of Minnesota's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MN

1	Rank (out of 43)
174	Total Points (out of 228)
1991	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
149	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
44,100	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Minnesota did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Minnesota's score increased from 172 points in 2013 to 174 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #16 (Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access). Its ranking stayed at #1.

Recommendations

- One potential area of improvement in Minnesota's law is providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Minnesota's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multi-school charter contracts and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access, but not eligibility.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10% and 19.9%.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement system.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					174

MISSISSIPPI

Below is a general summary of Mississippi's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MS

14	Rank (out of 43)
149	Total Points (out of 228)
2010	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
0	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
0	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Mississippi enacted a significant overhaul of its charter school law in 2013.
- Under its previous charter school law, the state allowed only up to 12 chronically low-performing schools to convert to charter status; provided weak autonomy, accountability, and funding; and required applicants to apply to the state board of education.
- Under its new charter school law, the state allows up to 15 start-ups and conversions per year; provided strong autonomy, accountability, and operational and categorical funding; and created a new state authorizer to be the state's sole authorizing entity.
- As a result, Mississippi's score increased from 39 points in 2013 to 149 points this year, the largest score increase in the five years we have been producing this report. Its ranking went from #43 to #14, the largest jump in rankings in the five years we have been producing this report.

Recommendations

- Potential areas of improvement in Mississippi's law include addressing open enrollment, clarifying teacher certification requirements, providing charter teachers with access to the state retirement system, providing applicants in all districts with direct access to the state authorizer, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Mississippi's Law

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

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

MISSOURI

Below is a general summary of Missouri's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MO

26	Rank (out of 43)
132	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
38	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
19,439	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Missouri did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Missouri's score stayed at 132 points. Its ranking went from #18 to #26. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Missouri.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Missouri's Law

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

MISSOURI

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					132

NEVADA

Below is a general summary of Nevada's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/NV

13	Rank (out of 43)
150	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
34	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
26,022	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Nevada enacted two major pieces of charter school legislation in 2013. The first created performance frameworks as part of charter contracts, strengthened the application and renewal processes, and provided for stronger authorizer accountability. The second provided facilities support.
- As a result, Nevada's score increased from 126 points in 2013 to 150 points this year. The score changed because of changes in state policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required), Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), Component #8 (Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes), and Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities) and because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards) and Component #14 (Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption).
- Its ranking went from #22 to #13.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Nevada's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows a charter school to submit a written request to the state superintendent of public instruction for a waiver from providing the days of instruction required by state law and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					150

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Below is a general summary of New Hampshire's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/NH

30	Rank (out of 43)
128	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
19	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
2,133	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- This year, New Hampshire enacted a budget that made some technical fixes to how the state funds charter schools. This had been an issue for the state board of education when it instituted a moratorium on charter schools last fall. With that problem fixed, the state board lifted its moratorium this summer and approved four new schools to open.
- New Hampshire's score increased from 113 points in 2013 to 128 points this year. The score changed because of a change in state policy for Component #1 (No Caps), a change in state practice for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), and a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking stayed at #30.

Recommendations

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

Summary of New Hampshire's Law

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

NEW JERSEY

Below is a general summary of New Jersey's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/NJ

32	Rank (out of 43)
116	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
87	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
31,743	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- New Jersey did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- New Jersey's score increased from 114 points in 2013 to 116 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #2 (A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed) and a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #29 to #32.

Recommendations

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

Summary of New Jersey's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	2	2	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					116

NEW MEXICO

Below is a general summary of New Mexico's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/NM

12	Rank (out of 43)
150	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
95	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
21,911	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- New Mexico did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- New Mexico's score increased from 147 points in 2013 to 150 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available). Its ranking went from #10 to #12.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include beefing up statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, increasing operational autonomy, and enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.

Summary of New Mexico's Law

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

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

NEW YORK

Below is a general summary of New York's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/NY

7	Rank (out of 43)
158	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
233	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
91,813	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- New York did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- New York's score increased from 148 points in 2013 to 158 points this year. The score changed because of a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #8 (A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed) and Component #14 (Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption). Its ranking went from #8 to #7.

Recommendations

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

Summary of New York's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					158

NORTH CAROLINA

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

19	Rank (out of 43)
144	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
127	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
58,933	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- North Carolina enacted legislation in 2013 that affected its charter school law.
- As a result, North Carolina's score increased from 125 points in 2013 to 144 points this year. The score changed because of changes in state policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and Component #14 (Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption), further clarification about the specific policies for Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed) and Component #17 (Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities), and adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available).
- Its ranking went from #23 to #19.

Recommendations

- North Carolina's law still needs work, such as ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities and providing adequate authorizer funding.

Summary of North Carolina's Law

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

NORTH CAROLINA

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multi-charter contract boards but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					144

OHIO

Below is a general summary of Ohio's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/OH

28	Rank (out of 43)
129	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
400	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
119,533	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Ohio enacted legislation to provide facilities funding to charter schools in 2013.
- Ohio's score increased from 117 points in 2013 to 129 points this year. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed), Component #13 (Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations), and Component #14 (Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption) and because of a change in state policy for Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities). Its ranking went from #27 to #28.

Recommendations

- Potential areas of improvement include removing all caps on charter school growth; beefing up its requirements for charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes; and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Ohio's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards for some schools, but not others.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20% and 29.9%.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					129

OKLAHOMA

Below is a general summary of Oklahoma's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/OK

36	Rank (out of 43)
112	Total Points (out of 228)
1999	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
25	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
16,137	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Oklahoma did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Oklahoma's score increased from 109 points in 2013 to 112 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available). Its ranking went from #34 to #36.

Recommendations

- The biggest area for improvement in Oklahoma's law is expanding charter schools statewide (the state currently allows charters in only 21 of its 537 districts). Other potential areas for improvement include beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (Components #6 through #9) and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Oklahoma's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multi-school charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access for some charter students.	0	1	0
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services, but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					112

OREGON

Below is a general summary of Oregon's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/OR

27	Rank (out of 43)
129	Total Points (out of 228)
1999	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
124	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
29,718	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Oregon made some modifications to its charter law this year. As a result, its score increased from 120 points in 2013 to 129 points this year. The score changed because of improvements in state policies for Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes) and Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed) and adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #26 to #27.

Recommendations

- 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 begin to hold authorizers accountable for their work.

Summary of Oregon's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30%.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					129

PENNSYLVANIA

Below is a general summary of Pennsylvania's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/PA

24	Rank (out of 43)
137	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
176	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
130,842	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Pennsylvania did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Pennsylvania's score increased from 131 points in 2013 to 137 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required).
- Its ranking went from #19 to #24. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Pennsylvania.

Recommendations

- Pennsylvania's law needs improvement in several areas, including prohibiting district-mandated restrictions on growth, expanding authorizer options, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing authorizer funding, allowing multi-school charter contracts or multicontract governing boards, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Pennsylvania's Law

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

PENNSYLVANIA

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	2	0
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems, unless at the time of application, it has a retirement program which covers the employees or the employee is currently enrolled in another retirement program.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					137

RHODE ISLAND

Below is a general summary of Rhode Island's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/RI

34	Rank (out of 43)
113	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
19	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
6,215	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Rhode Island did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Rhode Island's score increased from 108 points in 2013 to 113 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #12 (Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures). Its ranking went from #35 to #34.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Rhode Island's Law

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

RHODE ISLAND

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	3	2	6
TOTAL POINTS					113

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

15	Rank (out of 43)
147	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
59	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
22,384	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- South Carolina made some modifications to its charter school law in 2013. While these changes are a step in the right direction, they were not significant enough to affect South Carolina's score and ranking.
- South Carolina's score increased from 141 points in 2013 to 147 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #14 (Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption).
- Its ranking went from #12 to #15. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in South Carolina.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring authorizer accountability, and enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.

Summary of South Carolina's Law

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

SOUTH CAROLINA

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing school district personnel policies, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	4	1	4
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10% and 19.9%.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	3	2	6
TOTAL POINTS					147

TENNESSEE

Below is a general summary of Tennessee's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/TN

35	Rank (out of 43)
112	Total Points (out of 228)
2002	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
71	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
15,533	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Tennessee made some modifications to its charter school law in 2013. While these changes are steps in the right direction, they were not significant enough to affect Tennessee's score and ranking.
- Tennessee's score increased from 109 points in 2013 to 112 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required). Its ranking went from #33 to #35.

Recommendations

- Tennessee's law needs improvement in several areas, including creating additional authorizing options, providing adequate authorizer funding, ensuring authorizer accountability, beefing up the requirements for performance-based contracts and charter school oversight, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Summary of Tennessee's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					112

TEXAS

Below is a general summary of Texas' law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/TX

23	Rank (out of 43)
137	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
689	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
253,245	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Texas enacted a major piece of charter school legislation in 2013. This legislation partially lifted the state's cap on charters, established clearer processes for renewals and closures, created a streamlined process for replicating and renewing successful schools, and instituted automatic closure requirements.
- As a result, Texas' score increased from 124 points in 2013 to 137 points this year. The score changed because of changes in state policies for Component #1 (No Caps), Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required), and Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required); a change in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available); and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed) and Component #12 (Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures). Its ranking went from #24 to #23.
- Texas' law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state- versus district-authorized charters. The requirements for state-authorized charters are typically better than those for district-authorized charters. For example, the law's provisions for charter school autonomy are much better for state-authorized charters. In fact, if our analysis just focused on the provisions governing state-authorized charters, Texas' law would be in our top 10. However, since our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charters, Texas is ranked #23.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Texas' Law

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

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

UTAH

Below is a general summary of Utah's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/UT

25	Rank (out of 43)
134	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
95	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
54,906	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Utah made some modifications to its charter school law in 2013. While these changes are a step in the right direction, they were not significant enough to affect Utah's score and ranking.
- Utah's score increased from 131 points in 2013 to 134 points this year. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required).
- Its ranking went from #20 to #25. This drop had more to do with the aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Utah.

Recommendations

- Potential areas for improvement include removing restrictions on charter school growth, ensuring authorizing accountability, beefing up its requirements for performance-based charter contracts, enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, providing more operational autonomy to charter schools, and ensuring equitable operational funding.

Summary of Utah's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multi-school charter contracts for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	3	2	6
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services, but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					134

VIRGINIA

Below is a general summary of Virginia's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/VA

39	Rank (out of 43)
72	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
6	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
725	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Virginia enacted a law in 2013 that would permit local school boards to allow charter school personnel to be employees of the charter school governing board. If a local school board made such an allowance, a charter school would be free to create its own personnel policies instead of being beholden to the district's policies. While this change is a step in the right direction, Virginia should go even further and automatically exempt schools from these and other state and district laws and regulations.
- Virginia's score increased from 69 points in 2013 to 72 points this year. The score changed for Component #14 (Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption) because of the already mentioned change in state policy. Its ranking stayed at #39.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Virginia's Law

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

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies, but provides an opportunity for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					72

WASHINGTON

Below is a general summary of Washington's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/WA

6	Rank (out of 43)
162	Total Points (out of 228)
2012	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
0	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
0	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Washington did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Washington's score increased from 161 points in 2013 to 162 points this year. The score changed to account for a change in our methodology for Component #16 (Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access) in the 2013 report.
- Its ranking went from #3 to #6. This drop had more to do with aggressive changes made in other states than with any steps backward in Washington.
- Washington's relatively new law allows multiple authorizers (via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer), is well aligned with the model law's four quality control components (Components #6 through #9), and provided operational autonomy to charter schools. In addition, while it appears that the law has many of the model law provisions related to equitable operational funding, there is no evidence yet of the actual level of equity because the law just passed.

Recommendations

- The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 40 charter schools during the initial five years that it is in effect and a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charters' facilities needs.

Summary of Washington's Law

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

WASHINGTON

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

WISCONSIN

Below is a general summary of Wisconsin's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/WI

38	Rank (out of 43)
76	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
245	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
47,689	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- As part of the budget enacted by the state in 2013, Wisconsin modified its charter law to expand the authorizing jurisdiction for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, create a charter school teaching license, and provide a small funding increase for nondistrict authorized charters. While these changes are steps in the right direction, they were not significant enough to impact Wisconsin's score and ranking.
- Wisconsin's score decreased from 77 points in 2013 to 76 points this year. The score changed because of a change in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and further clarification about the specific policies for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #37 to #38.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Wisconsin's Law

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	2	8
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	1	3	3
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	2	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30%.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools, but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
TOTAL POINTS					76

WYOMING

Below is a general summary of Wyoming's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/WY

37	Rank (out of 43)
87	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
4	Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013-14
382	Estimated Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013-14

Changes in 2013

- Wyoming did not pass any legislation in 2013 that affected its score and ranking.
- Wyoming's score stayed at 87 points. Its ranking went from #36 to #37.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Wyoming's Law

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

WYOMING

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

Appendix A: Methodological Details

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

Weights

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

Weights	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	
4	6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes
	7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required
	8	Comprehensive Public Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes
	9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions
	18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding
	19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities
3	1	No Caps
	3	Multiple Authorizers Available
	4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required
	11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards
	13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations
	14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption
2	2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed
	5	Adequate Authorizer Funding
	10	Educational Service Providers (ESPs) Allowed
	12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures
	15	Multi-school Charter Contracts and/or Multi-charter 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 20 components, we rated every state on the components on a scale of 0 to 4. We multiplied the rating and the weight to get a score for each component in each state. We then added up the scores for each of the 20 components and came up with an overall score for each state. The highest score possible is 228.

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

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

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
3	<p>Multiple Authorizers Available, including:</p> <p>3A. The state allows two or more authorizing options (e.g., school districts and a state charter schools commission) for each applicant with direct application to each authorizer.</p>	The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized.	The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 and 49 schools are authorized.	<p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options.</p> <p>(CONTINUED)</p>	<p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized.</p>	The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
10	<p>Educational Service Providers (ESPs) Allowed, including:</p> <p>10A. All types of educational service providers (both for-profit and nonprofit) are explicitly allowed to operate all or parts of schools.</p> <p>10B. The charter application requires (1) performance data for all current and past schools operated by the ESP, including documentation of academic achievement and (if applicable) school management success; and (2) explanation and evidence of the ESP's capacity for successful growth while maintaining quality in existing schools.</p> <p>(CONTINUED)</p>	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
10	<p>10C. A performance contract is required between the independent public charter school board and the ESP, setting forth material terms including but not limited to: performance evaluation measures, methods of contract oversight and enforcement by the charter school board, compensation structure and all fees to be paid to the ESP, and conditions for contract renewal and termination.</p> <p>10D. The material terms of the ESP performance contract must be approved by the authorizer prior to charter approval.</p> <p>10E. School governing boards operate as entities completely independent of any ESP (e.g., must retain independent oversight authority of their charter schools, and cannot give away their authority via contract).</p> <p>10F. Existing and potential conflicts of interest between the two entities are required to be disclosed and explained in the charter application.</p>	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
11	<p>Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards, including:</p> <p>11A. Fiscally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to receive and disburse funds; incur debt; and pledge, assign, or encumber assets as collateral).</p> <p>11B. Legally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to enter into contracts and leases, sue and be sued in their own names, and acquire real property).</p> <p>11C. School governing boards created specifically to govern their charter schools.</p>	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.

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

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
13	<p>Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations, including:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>13B. Exemption from state teacher certification requirements.</p>	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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.</p>	There were six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in this cell. ¹	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.

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

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
14	<p>Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption, whereby:</p> <p>14A. Charter schools authorized by nonlocal board authorizers are exempt from participation in any outside collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>14B. Charter schools authorized by local boards are exempt from participation in any district collective bargaining agreements.</p>	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions.	<p>The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law requires all charter school staff to be employees of the local school district but exempts the staff from state education employment laws.</p>	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools.	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
15	<p>Multi-school Charter Contracts and/or Multi-charter Contract Boards Allowed, whereby an independent public charter school board may:</p> <p>15A. Oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.</p> <p>15B. Hold multiple charter contracts with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.</p>	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	<p>The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools.</p>	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	<p>The state law allows either of these arrangements but only requires schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law allows either of these arrangements for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p>	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.

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

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
17	<p>Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities, including:</p> <p>17A. Clarity regarding which entity is the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing special education services.</p> <p>17B. Clarity regarding funding for low-incident, high-cost services for charter schools (in the same amount and/or in a manner similar to other LEAs).</p>	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	The state law is clear on either responsibility for providing services OR funding for low-incident, high-cost services but not both.	Not applicable.	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.

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	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
18	<p>Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding, including:</p> <p>18A. Equitable operational funding statutorily driven.</p> <p>18B. Equal access to all applicable categorical federal and state funding and clear guidance on the pass-through of such funds.</p> <p>18C. Funding for transportation similar to school districts.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30.0%.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law includes a small number or none of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20.0% and 29.9%.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law includes some or many of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10.0% and 19.9%.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10.0%.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates no equity gap between district and charter students.</p>

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

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

Changes

For this edition of the report, we modified our approach to two of the 20 essential components: #3: Multiple Authorizers Available and #4: Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required.

For #3: Multiple Authorizers Available, see below for a direct comparison of the previous rubric and the new rubric.

	Old Rubric	New Rubric
3	Multiple Authorizers Available , including: 3A. The state allows two or more authorizing paths (e.g., school districts and a state charter schools commission) for each applicant with direct application to each authorizer.	Multiple Authorizers Available , including: 3A. The state allows two or more authorizing options (e.g., school districts and a state charter schools commission) for each applicant with direct application to each authorizer.
	Rating 0: The state allows one authorizing path, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	Rating 0: The state allows one authorizing option, and 11 or fewer schools are authorized.
	Rating 1: The state allows one authorizing path, and there is some authorizing activity.	Rating 1: The state allows one authorizing option, and between 12 and 49 schools are authorized.
	Rating 2: The state allows one authorizing path, and there is considerable authorizing activity. OR The state allows two or more authorizing paths in some but not all situations. There is some authorizing activity in at least two paths. OR The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations. There is some authorizing activity in at least one path.	Rating 2: The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. OR The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in one option but little activity in the other options. OR The state allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options. OR The state allows one authorizing option, and between 50 and 99 schools are authorized.

Appendix A: Methodological Details

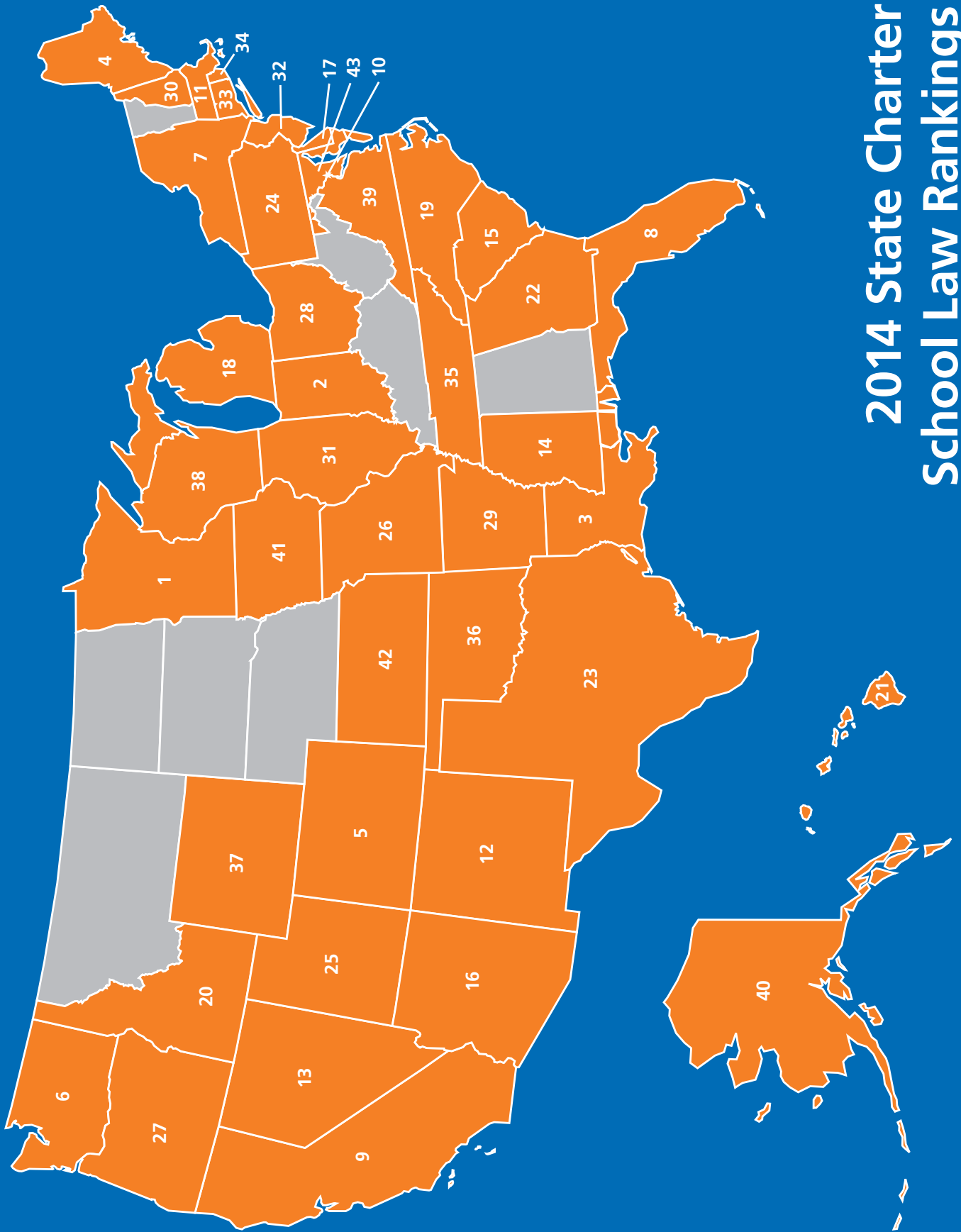
	Old Rubric	New Rubric
3	<p>Rating 3:</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least one path.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations. There is some authorizing activity in at least two paths.</p>	<p>Rating 3:</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations but does not provide direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows one authorizing option, and 100 or more schools are authorized.</p>
	<p>Rating 4:</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing paths in all situations. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two paths.</p>	<p>Rating 4:</p> <p>The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.</p>

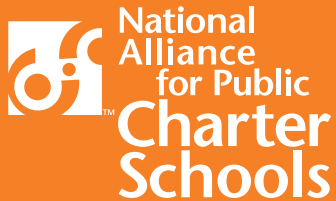
For #4: Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required, we modified how we applied two of the six criteria for this component to state laws that allow state entities to serve as authorizers:

- 4D. A regular review process by authorizer oversight body.
- 4E. Authorizer oversight body with authority to sanction authorizers, including removal of authorizer right to approve schools.

While some laws do not require the legislature and the governor to regularly review the performance of the state entities as authorizers, the legislature and the governor can do so at any time. In addition, since they are the ones that gave state entities that authority in the first place, the legislature and the governor can remove the ability of these entities to continue authorizing at any time. Therefore, some states receive partial or full credit for these items in this year’s report, depending on the dynamics in their state.

2014 State Charter School Law Rankings





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