



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 of state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Introduction

The elections in November 2014 had a strong influence on state legislative activity last year. Gubernatorial elections were held in 36 states, while legislative elections took place in 46 states. These looming races prevented some legislators from taking tough votes on pro-charter bills and motivated other legislators to introduce anti-charter bills. As a result, there was a lot of talk about public charter schools in state capitols in 2014, but there was not as much action as we have seen over the previous few years.

Notwithstanding the elections, 10 states enacted legislation to strengthen their authorizing environments in 2014. For example, Alaska created an appellate process for public charter school applicants denied by their local school districts and provided a mechanism to fund the work of authorizers, South Carolina and Tennessee strengthened their charter application processes, and Utah bolstered its requirements for performance-based charter contracts.

Six states improved their support for public charter school funding and facilities in 2014. In one of the boldest moves yet by a state, New York enacted legislation that requires the New York City School District to provide public school building space or offer space in a privately owned or other publicly owned facility at the expense of the district to new and expanding charters in the district. Alaska's comprehensive approach to overhauling public charter school funding is also worth noting, as it increased the pots of money included in the per-pupil calculation for charter schools, ensured that charter schools receive state aid for construction or major maintenance, required districts to provide transportation for charter schools or pay the charter school the portion of transportation funds provided by the state, and provided a one-year start-up grant to new charter schools equal to \$500 per pupil.

Although we did not see as much positive legislative change for charters in 2014 as in the previous few years, we are cautiously optimistic that the 2014 election results will accelerate the pace of state legislative improvements for public charter schools in 2015 and beyond. With charter supporters in both parties winning re-election or election for the first time, it is time to get to work lifting caps that constrain growth, enhancing quality controls to better encourage the opening of great schools, and providing additional funding to decrease the equity gap between public charter school students and their counterparts in traditional public schools.

We hope this report will be a useful starting point for these supporters and others as they work to strengthen public charter school laws, particularly in the service of those students most in need of a better public school option right now.

Nina Rees
President and CEO
National Alliance for
Public Charter Schools

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

The 2015 State Charter School Rankings

Even though there was not as much state legislative activity in 2014 as in the previous few years, there were some notable shifts in the rankings. While some of the shifts were because of policy changes in the states, others were actually the result of new data related to funding inequity.¹

Here are the major takeaways from this year's rankings:

- **Minnesota** remained first, while **Maryland** remained last.
- **South Carolina** moved up six spots from #16 to #10 because it enacted legislation that strengthened its authorizing environment by allowing public charter school applicants direct access to multiple authorizers and requiring additional charter application elements specific to educational service providers and replications.
- **Utah** moved up seven spots from #25 to #18 because it enacted legislation that strengthened its requirements for performance-based contracts and because of new data related to its authorizing environment and funding equity.
- While **Alaska** moved only from #40 to #39, its point total jumped from 67 to 78 points. This 11-point increase was tied for the highest in this year's report (with Utah).
- **Massachusetts** moved down six spots from #11 to #17 because of new data related to funding equity.
- Our highest-scoring state received only 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, beginning on the following page, contains the full 2015 State Charter School Law Rankings.

¹ As part of the criteria for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Categorical Funding), we looked at evidence related to the equity gap between district and charter students. In past editions of this report, we used information from Ball State University's 2010 study *Charter School Funding: Inequity Persists* for this evidence. In 2014, the University of Arkansas released *Charter School Funding: Inequity Expands*, an updated version of the 2010 study. We used information from the new study for evidence related to the equity gap between district and charter students in this year's rankings report.

The 2015 State Charter School Law Rankings

Table 1: 2015 State Charter School Law Rankings²

2015 Ranking	State	2015 Score	2014 Score	Score Difference	2014 Ranking	Ranking Difference
1	Minnesota	174	174	0	1	0
2	Louisiana	167	167	0	3	+1
3	Maine	163	163	0	4	+1
4	Washington	162	162	0	6	+2
5	Indiana	161	170	-9	2	-3
6	Colorado	159	163	-4	5	-1
7	New York	157	158	-1	7	0
8	Florida	156	156	0	8	0
9	D.C.	153	153	0	10	+1
10	South Carolina	152	147	5	16	+6
11	California	152	156	-4	9	-2
12	Arizona	151	147	4	16	+4
13	New Mexico	150	150	0	12	-1
14	Nevada	150	150	0	13	-1
15	Mississippi	149	149	0	14	-1
16	North Carolina	148	144	4	19	3
17	Massachusetts	147	151	-4	11	-6
18	Utah	145	134	11	25	+7
19	Delaware	142	146	-4	17	-2
20	Idaho	141	141	0	20	0
21	Michigan	141	145	-4	18	-3
22	Texas	137	137	0	23	+1
23	Georgia	137	138	-1	22	-1
24	Hawaii	136	140	-4	21	-3
25	Pennsylvania	133	137	-4	24	-1
26	Oregon	133	129	-4	27	+1
27	Missouri	132	132	0	26	-1
28	Ohio	130	129	1	28	0
29	Illinois	129	125	4	31	+2
30	Arkansas	128	128	0	29	-1

² 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 2015 State Charter School Law Rankings

2015 Ranking	State	2015 Score	2014 Score	Score Difference	2014 Ranking	Ranking Difference
31	New Hampshire	128	128	0	30	-1
32	Tennessee	120	116	4	35	+3
33	Rhode Island	116	113	3	34	+1
34	New Jersey	116	116	0	32	-2
35	Connecticut	113	114	-1	33	-2
36	Oklahoma	112	112	0	36	0
37	Wyoming	87	87	0	37	0
38	Wisconsin	79	76	3	38	0
39	Alaska	78	67	11	40	+1
40	Virginia	76	72	4	39	-1
41	Iowa	63	63	0	41	0
42	Kansas	60	60	0	42	0
43	Maryland	41	42	-1	43	0

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

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 the 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 a 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 state or authorizer fees, and public accountability for such expenditures.
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes, including comprehensive academic, operational, governance, and performance application requirements, with such applications reviewed and acted upon following professional authorizer standards.
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required, with such contracts created as separate postapplication documents between authorizers and public charter schools detailing at least academic performance expectations, operational performance expectations, and school and authorizer rights and duties.
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes, so that all authorizers can verify 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 a Strong Public Charter School Law	
11	<p>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 of the powers granted to other traditional public school district boards.</p>
12	<p>Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment and Lottery Procedures, which must be followed by all public charter schools.</p>
13	<p>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.</p>
14	<p>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.</p>
15	<p>Multischool Charter Contract and/or Multicharter 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.</p>
16	<p>Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access, whereby (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 extracurricular and interscholastic activities have access to those activities at traditional public schools for a free via a mutual agreement.</p>
17	<p>Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities, including clarity on which entity is the local education agency responsible for such services and how such services are to be funded (especially for low-incident, high-cost cases).</p>
18	<p>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.</p>
19	<p>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.</p>
20	<p>Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems, with the option to participate in a similar manner to all other public schools.</p>

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 a 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 (13 states)	Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah
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 Decisionmaking Processes (1 state)	Louisiana
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required (1 state)	Maine
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes (13 states)	Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina

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

Essential Components of a 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 (6 states)	Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards (27 states)	Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, 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	Multischool 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	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access (1 state)	South Carolina
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities (12 states)	Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding (1 state)	New Mexico
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities (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, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/AK

39	Rank (out of 43)
78	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
27	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
6,123	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Alaska's score increased from 67 points to 78 points. The score changed for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), Component #5 (Adequate Authorizer Funding), and Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding) because of legislation that the state enacted in 2014. Its ranking moved from #40 to #39.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Alaska's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access to extracurricular and interscholastic activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds public 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					78

ARIZONA

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

12	Rank (out of 43)
151	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
605	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
190,672	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
14	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Arizona's score increased from 147 points to 151 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking moved from #16 to #12.

Recommendations

- Arizona's law does not have a cap on public charter growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its public charter schools. However, the law still provides inequitable funding to public charter students by barring their access to significant buckets of funding.
- 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.	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.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
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.	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.	0	2	0
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.	0	3	0
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.	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.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	1	3	3
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on 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, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	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.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					151

ARKANSAS

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

30	Rank (out of 43)
128	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
39	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
16,399	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
20	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Arkansas' score remained at 128 points. Its ranking went from #29 to #30.

Recommendations

- While Arkansas' law has a cap on public charter school growth, it is structured in a way that allows ample growth. Although the state law provides adequate accountability provisions, it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include creating additional authorizing options, increasing operational autonomy, 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 school district personnel policies.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter 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	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				TOTAL POINTS	128

CALIFORNIA

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

11	Rank (out of 43)
152	Total Points (out of 228)
1992	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
1,131	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
514,172	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
8	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- California's score decreased from 156 points to 152 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #9 to #11.

Recommendations

- California's law has a cap that allows ample growth, provides a robust appellate process, provides a fair amount of autonomy but lacks some aspects of accountability, and has made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to public charters, although some work still remains.
- Potential areas for improvement in its public charter law include strengthening authorizer accountability, beefing up requirements for performance-based charter contracts, and enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between public 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 decisionmaking 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 a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows either of these arrangements but requires only schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	3	2	6
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law does not explicitly address charter eligibility and access, but under the state's statutorily defined "permissive" education code, these practices are permitted 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	Evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent, but recent policy changes have likely reduced this gap.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					152

COLORADO

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

6	Rank (out of 43)
159	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
197	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
93,141	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
12	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Colorado's score decreased from 163 points to 159 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #5 to #6.

Recommendations

- Colorado's law does not cap public charter school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, and provides multiple authorizers or a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, it still provides inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 does not directly address this issue but has been consistently interpreted to exempt charter schools from district collective bargaining agreements.	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				TOTAL POINTS	159

CONNECTICUT

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

35	Rank (out of 43)
113	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
18	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
6,981	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Connecticut's score decreased from 114 points to 113 points. While the score increased by three points because of further clarification about the policies for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) and by four points because of further clarification about the policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), it decreased by eight points because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #33 to #35.

Recommendations

- Connecticut's law contains significant restrictions on growth; includes a single authorizer; and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 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 some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	2	0
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					113

DELAWARE

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

19	Rank (out of 43)
142	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
21	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
11,078	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Delaware's score decreased from 146 points to 142 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #17 to #19.

Recommendations

- Delaware's law does not have a cap on public charter growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy to its public charter schools. Over the past few years, Delaware has also taken steps to strengthen the accountability of its public charter schools and provide additional funding to them.
- Delaware's law still needs improvement in several areas, including ensuring adequate authorizing funding and ensuring equitable operational and facilities 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 decisionmaking 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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for ensuring state funding for low-incident, high-cost services but not for providing services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					142

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

9	Rank (out of 43)
153	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
107	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
36,565	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
1	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- D.C.'s score remained at 153 points. Its ranking went from #10 to #9.

Recommendations

- D.C.'s law has a cap on public charters that allows for ample growth, includes an independent charter board as the authorizer, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to public charters.
- The biggest area for potential improvement is ensuring equitable operational funding for public 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

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

FLORIDA

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

8	Rank (out of 43)
156	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
625	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
229,926	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
11	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Florida's score remained at 156 points. Its ranking stayed at #8.

Recommendations

- Florida's law does not have a cap on public charter growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, it still provides inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

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

GEORGIA

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

23	Rank (out of 43)
137	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
110	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
70,718	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
18	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Georgia's score decreased from 138 points to 137 points. While the score increased because of new data for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), it decreased because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #22 to #23.

Recommendations

- While Georgia's law does not cap public charter school growth and provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, it provides inadequate autonomy and accountability and inequitable funding to charters.
- 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 multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter 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. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					137

HAWAII

Below is a general summary of Hawaii's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

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

24	Rank (out of 43)
136	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
33	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
9,840	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Hawaii's score decreased from 140 points to 136 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #21 to #24.

Recommendations

- Hawaii's law does not cap public charter school growth, provides a single authorizing option to applicants, and provides sufficient accountability. However, the law still provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

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

IDAHO

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

20	Rank (out of 43)
141	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
47	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
20,380	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Idaho's score remained at 141 points. Its ranking stayed at #20.

Recommendations

- Idaho's law is mostly cap-free, provides multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it still provides inequitable funding to public charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality public charter schools through multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter 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 decisionmaking 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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				TOTAL POINTS	141

ILLINOIS

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

29	Rank (out of 43)
129	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
145	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
59,627	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
13	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Illinois' score increased from 125 points to 129 points. The score change happened due to policy changes for Component #10 (Educational Service Providers Allowed) and because of a shift in methodology for Component #15 (Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed). Its ranking went from #31 to #29.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Illinois' Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking 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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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, requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters, and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
TOTAL POINTS					129

INDIANA

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

5	Rank (out of 43)
161	Total Points (out of 228)
2001	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
75	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
35,552	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
7	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Indiana's score decreased from 170 points to 161 points. While the score increased because of clarification about the policies for Component #13 (Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations), it decreased because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking fell from #2 to #5.

Recommendations

- Indiana's law does not cap public charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charters.
- The biggest area for improvement in Indiana's law is ensuring equitable operational and categorical funding and 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 decisionmaking 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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
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 it requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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 greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					161

IOWA

Below is a general summary of Iowa's law.

For a detailed profile, 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	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
315	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

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

Recommendations

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

Summary of Iowa's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4

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

42	Rank (out of 43)
60	Total Points (out of 228)
1994	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
11	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
2,549	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

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

Recommendations

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

Summary of Kansas' Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students 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, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/LA

2	Rank (out of 43)
167	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
117	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
59,059	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
2	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Louisiana's score remained at 167 points. Its ranking went from #3 to #2.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Louisiana's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	4	4	16

	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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
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 other schools.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multicharter contract boards and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students 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 other schools.	3	2	6
TOTAL POINTS					167

MAINE

Below is a general summary of Maine's law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

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

3	Rank (out of 43)
163	Total Points (out of 228)
2011	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
5	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
383	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Maine's score remained at 163 points. Its ranking went from #4 to #3.

Recommendations

- Maine's law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, provides operational autonomy to public charter schools, and provides equitable operational funding to public charter schools. The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 10 state-authorized public charter schools during the initial 10 years that the law is in effect (there is no cap on the number of charters that local school districts can approve) and a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charters' facilities needs.
- Potential areas for improvement in the law are lifting the state's cap on state-authorized public 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	4	4	16
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access but not eligibility.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students 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, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/MD

43	Rank (out of 43)
41	Total Points (out of 228)
2003	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
52	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
21,397	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Maryland's score decreased from 42 points to 41 points. While the score increased by three points to account for a change in our methodology for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) in the 2014 report, it decreased by four points because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking stayed at #43.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Maryland's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 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 decisionmaking processes.	0	4	0
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	0	4	0

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for comprehensive 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					41

MASSACHUSETTS

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

17	Rank (out of 43)
147	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
81	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
33,214	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
6	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Massachusetts' score decreased from 151 points to 147 points. The score changed because of updated data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #11 to #17.

Recommendations

- Massachusetts' law provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charters, but it contains a variety of caps on charter growth, includes only a single authorizing path, and provides inequitable funding.
- Potential areas for improvement include removing the state's caps on public 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 limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools.	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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					147

MICHIGAN

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

21	Rank (out of 43)
141	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
297	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
136,859	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
3	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Michigan's score decreased from 145 points to 141 points. The score changed because of updated data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #18 to #21.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Michigan's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking 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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multischool charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				TOTAL POINTS	141

MINNESOTA

Below is a general summary of Minnesota's law. For a detailed profile, 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	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
43,937	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
16	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Minnesota's score remained at 174 points. Its ranking stayed at #1.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Minnesota's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multischool charter contracts and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access but not eligibility.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-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 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement system.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					174

MISSISSIPPI

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

15	Rank (out of 43)
149	Total Points (out of 228)
2010	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
0	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
0	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Mississippi's score stayed at 149 points. Its ranking went from #14 to #15.

Recommendations

- Mississippi's law contains a cap with room for ample growth, includes a single statewide authorizing entity, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and includes strong operational and categorical funding.
- Potential areas of improvement in Mississippi's law include addressing open enrollment, clarifying teacher certification requirements, providing public 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 11 or fewer schools are authorized.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 existing school district personnel polices.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides eligibility but not access.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students 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 access to the relevant employee retirement systems.	0	2	0
TOTAL POINTS					149

MISSOURI

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

27	Rank (out of 43)
132	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
38	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
19,439	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
15	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Missouri's score stayed at 132 points. Its ranking went from #26 to #27.

Recommendations

- Missouri's law is largely cap-free and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charters. However, it includes multiple authorizing options in some districts but not others and provides inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					132

NEVADA

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

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

Changes in 2014

- Nevada's score remained at 150 points. Its ranking went from #13 to #14.

Recommendations

- Nevada's law does not have a cap on public charter growth and allows multiple authorizing entities. Over the past few years, Nevada has taken steps to improve its law by creating an independent state authorizer, strengthening accountability, and providing facilities support. Still, the law provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 decisionmaking 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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law 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 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					150

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

31	Rank (out of 43)
128	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
19	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
2,096	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- New Hampshire's score remained at 128 points. Its ranking went from #30 to #31.

Recommendations

- While New Hampshire's law contains a cap that allows for adequate growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charter schools, the state's authorizing options (local school districts and the state board of education) have been unreliable, and the law provides inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement in New Hampshire's public 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 decisionmaking 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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				TOTAL POINTS	128

NEW JERSEY

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

34	Rank (out of 43)
116	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
87	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
32,260	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
4	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- New Jersey's score remained at 116 points. Its ranking went from #32 to #34.

Recommendations

- New Jersey's law does not contain caps on public charter school growth and provides a fair amount of accountability, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multischool charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					116

NEW MEXICO

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

13	Rank (out of 43)
150	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
95	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
21,376	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
21	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- New Mexico's score remained at 150 points. Its ranking went from #12 to #13.

Recommendations

- New Mexico's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of accountability but contains some caps on public charter school growth and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include beefing up statutory guidelines for relationships between public charter schools and educational service providers, increasing operational autonomy, and enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter 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 decisionmaking 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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of less than 10 percent.	3	4	12
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					150

NEW YORK

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

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/NY

7	Rank (out of 43)
157	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
233	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
92,043	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
5	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- New York's score decreased from 158 points to 157 points. While the score increased because of clarification regarding the policies for Component #16 (Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access) and the enactment of new policies for Component #19 (Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities), it decreased because of new data for Component #1 (No Caps) and Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking stayed at #7.

Recommendations

- New York's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability but contains caps on public charter growth (which is becoming problematic in New York City) and provides inequitable funding.
- Potential areas for improvement include lifting the state's caps on public charter growth and 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 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 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.	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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access but not eligibility.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, but evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					157

NORTH CAROLINA

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

16	Rank (out of 43)
148	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
127	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
58,387	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
22	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- North Carolina's score increased from 144 points to 148 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #19 to #16.

Recommendations

- North Carolina's law does not cap public charter school growth and provides fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inequitable funding.
- 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows multicharter contract boards but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					148

OHIO

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

28	Rank (out of 43)
130	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
400	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
123,778	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
17	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Ohio's score increased from 129 points to 130 points. The score change happened because of new policies enacted for Component #16 (Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access). Its ranking stayed at #28.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Ohio's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides access but not eligibility.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 20 percent and 29.9 percent.	1	4	4
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					130

OKLAHOMA

Below is a general summary of Oklahoma's law. For a detailed profile, 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	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
9,751	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Oklahoma's score remained at 112 points. Its ranking stayed at #36.

Recommendations

- While Oklahoma's law provides a fair amount of autonomy to public charter schools and includes multiple authorizers, it allows charters only in approximately 4 percent of the state's school districts and provides insufficient accountability and inequitable funding to charters.
- The biggest area for improvement in Oklahoma's law is expanding charter schools statewide. 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multischool charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	2	4
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access for some charter students.	0	1	0
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students 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, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/OR

26	Rank (out of 43)
133	Total Points (out of 228)
1999	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
124	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
28,581	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
25	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Oregon's score increased from 129 points to 133 points. The score changed because of further clarification about the policies for Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions). Its ranking went from #27 to #26.

Recommendations

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

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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					133

PENNSYLVANIA

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

25	Rank (out of 43)
133	Total Points (out of 228)
1997	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
176	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
128,701	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
23	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Pennsylvania's score decreased from 137 points to 133 points. The score changed because of updated data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking went from #24 to #25.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Pennsylvania's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	2	0
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of greater than 30 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems, unless at the time of application, it has a retirement program that covers the employee or the employee is currently enrolled in another retirement program.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					133

RHODE ISLAND

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

33	Rank (out of 43)
116	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
19	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
5,950	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
10	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Rhode Island's score increased from 113 points to 116 points. The score changed because of adjustments in our methodology for Component #4 (Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required) in 2014. Its ranking went from #34 to #33.

Recommendations

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

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 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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 other schools.	3	2	6
TOTAL POINTS					116

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

10	Rank (out of 43)
152	Total Points (out of 228)
1996	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
59	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
23,302	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- South Carolina's score increased from 147 points to 152 points. While the score increased because of new policies for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes), it decreased because of clarification about the policies for Component #5 (Adequate Authorizer Funding). Its ranking went from #16 to #10.

Recommendations

- South Carolina law does not cap charter school growth, provides multiple authorizing options to charter applicants, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charter schools. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charters, especially around facilities, technology, and transportation.
- Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable funding through increasing per-pupil funding, providing equitable access to capital funding, and ensuring access to vacant and underutilized facilities. South Carolina could also consider enacting statutory guidelines to govern the expansion of high-quality charter schools through multischool charter contracts and/or multicharter 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, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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 other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	4	1	4
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law 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 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools.	3	2	6
TOTAL POINTS					152

TENNESSEE

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

32	Rank (out of 43)
120	Total Points (out of 228)
2002	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
71	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
12,148	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
9	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Tennessee's score increased from 116 points to 120 points. The score changed because of newly enacted policies for Component #6 (Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes) and updated data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking moved from #35 to #32.

Recommendations

- While Tennessee's law does not cap public charter school growth, it primarily allows only local school district authorizers, insufficient autonomy and accountability, and inequitable funding.
- Tennessee's law needs improvement in several areas, including creating additional authorizing options in all of the state's districts, providing adequate authorizer funding, ensuring authorizer accountability, beefing up the requirements for performance-based contracts 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 many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					120

TEXAS

Below is a general summary of Texas' law.

For a detailed profile, go to:

www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/TX

22	Rank (out of 43)
137	Total Points (out of 228)
1995	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
689	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
238,093	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
19	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Texas' score remained at 137 points. Its ranking went from #23 to #22.

Recommendations

- Texas' law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state- versus district-authorized public charters. The requirements for state-authorized public charters are typically better than those for district-authorized charters. For example, the law's provisions for public 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 #22.
- 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 decisionmaking 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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
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 provide automatic exemptions from many district laws and regulations.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing school district policies but not other schools.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows an independent 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	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
TOTAL POINTS					137

UTAH

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

18	Rank (out of 43)
145	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
95	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
54,900	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
24	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Utah's score increased from 134 points to 145 points. The score change happened because of new data for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available), new policies for Component #7 (Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required), and new data for Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding). Its ranking jumped from #25 to #18.

Recommendations

- Utah strengthened accountability requirements for public charters in 2014. Utah's law allows multiple authorizing entities, but it contains a cap on public charter school growth and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.
- Potential areas for improvement include removing restrictions on public charter school growth, ensuring authorizing accountability, 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 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 decisionmaking 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 number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multischool charter contracts for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	3	2	6
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, and evidence demonstrates an equity gap between district and charter students of between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	4	12
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.	4	2	8
TOTAL POINTS					145

VIRGINIA

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

40	Rank (out of 43)
76	Total Points (out of 228)
1998	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
6	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
2,161	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Virginia's score increased from 72 points to 76 points. The score changed because of further clarification about the specific policies for Component #9 (Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions). Its ranking went from #39 to #40.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Virginia's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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					76

WASHINGTON

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

4	Rank (out of 43)
162	Total Points (out of 228)
2012	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
0	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
0	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Washington's score stayed at 162 points. Its ranking went from #6 to #4.

Recommendations

- Washington's relatively new law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, gives operational autonomy to public charter schools, and provides equitable operational funding to public charter schools.
- The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 40 public 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 decisionmaking processes.	3	4	12

	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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides eligibility but not access.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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, go to: www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/law-database/WI

38	Rank (out of 43)
79	Total Points (out of 228)
1993	Year Charter School Law Was Enacted
245	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
43,835	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Wisconsin's score increased from 76 points to 79 points. The score changed because of further clarification about the policies for Component #11 (Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards). Its ranking stayed at #38.

Recommendations

- One of the primary contributors to the public charter school law's weakness in Wisconsin is that it creates three types of public charter schools. The first two types—"independent charter schools" and "noninstrumentality charter schools"—actually have independence and autonomy. The City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside authorized independent charter schools. Noninstrumentality charter schools are authorized by local school districts, and their staff members are employees of the school (not the district). The third type—"instrumentality charter schools"—has little independence and autonomy. Instrumentality charter schools are authorized by local school districts, and their staff members are employees of the district (not the school). For all three types of charters, the law provides insufficient accountability and inequitable funding to public charters.
- 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 decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4

	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 Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes 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 provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements but not other schools.	2	3	6
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-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 percent.	0	4	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	4	4
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
TOTAL POINTS					79

WYOMING

Below is a general summary of Wyoming's law. For a detailed profile, 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	Number of Public Charter Schools in 2013–14
463	Number of Public Charter School Students in 2013–14
Not Ranked	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rank (out of 26)

Changes in 2014

- Wyoming's score stayed at 87 points. Its ranking stayed at #37.

Recommendations

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

Summary of Wyoming's Law

	Essential Components of Strong 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 decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4

	Essential Components of Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent 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	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students 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 and Rubric.

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

Appendix A: Methodological Details

Rubric

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

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

	Essential Components of a Strong 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.	<p>The state has a cap with room for ample growth</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state does not have a cap but allows districts to restrict growth. Some districts have done so.</p>	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	<p>The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions but not virtual schools.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows only new start-ups.</p>	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.

Appendix A: Methodological Details

	Essential Components of a 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 has a cap with room for ample growth</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state does not have a cap but allows districts to restrict growth. Some districts have done so.</p>	The state does not have a cap.

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	Essential Components of a 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 a 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>	<p>The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>

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	Essential Components of a 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 a 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>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.</p>

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	Essential Components of a 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>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>

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

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	Essential Components of a 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 a 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 a 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>10C. A performance contract is required between the independent public charter school board and the ESP, setting forth material terms including but not limited to: performance evaluation measures, methods of contract oversight and enforcement by the charter school board, compensation structure and all fees to be paid to the ESP, and conditions for contract renewal and termination.</p> <p>(CONTINUED)</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.</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 a Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
10	<p>10D. The material terms of the ESP performance contract must be approved by the authorizer prior to charter approval.</p> <p>10E. School governing boards operate as entities completely independent of any ESP (e.g., must retain independent oversight authority of their charter schools and cannot give away their authority via contract).</p> <p>10F. Existing and potential conflicts of interest between the two entities are required to be disclosed and explained in the charter application.</p>	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	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.
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 a 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, and siblings of enrolled students enrolled at a charter school.</p> <p>12D. Optional enrollment preference for children of a school's founders, governing board members, and full-time employees, not exceeding 10 percent of the school's total student population.</p>	The state law includes none of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.

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	Essential Components of a 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>	<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>	<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>	<p>There were six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in this cell.¹</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 a 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.
15	<p>Multischool 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.	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	<p>The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools.</p>	<p>The state law allows either of these arrangements but requires only schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law allows either of these arrangements for some schools and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p>	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.

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	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
16	<p>Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access, whereby:</p> <p>16A. Laws or regulations explicitly state that charter school students and employees are eligible to participate in all interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, and recognition programs available to noncharter public school students and employees.</p> <p>16B. Laws or regulations explicitly allow charter school students in schools not providing extracurricular and interscholastic activities to have access to those activities at noncharter public schools for a fee by a mutual agreement.</p>	The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access for some or all charter students.	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	The state law provides either eligibility or access (but not both) for some types of charters (but not all).	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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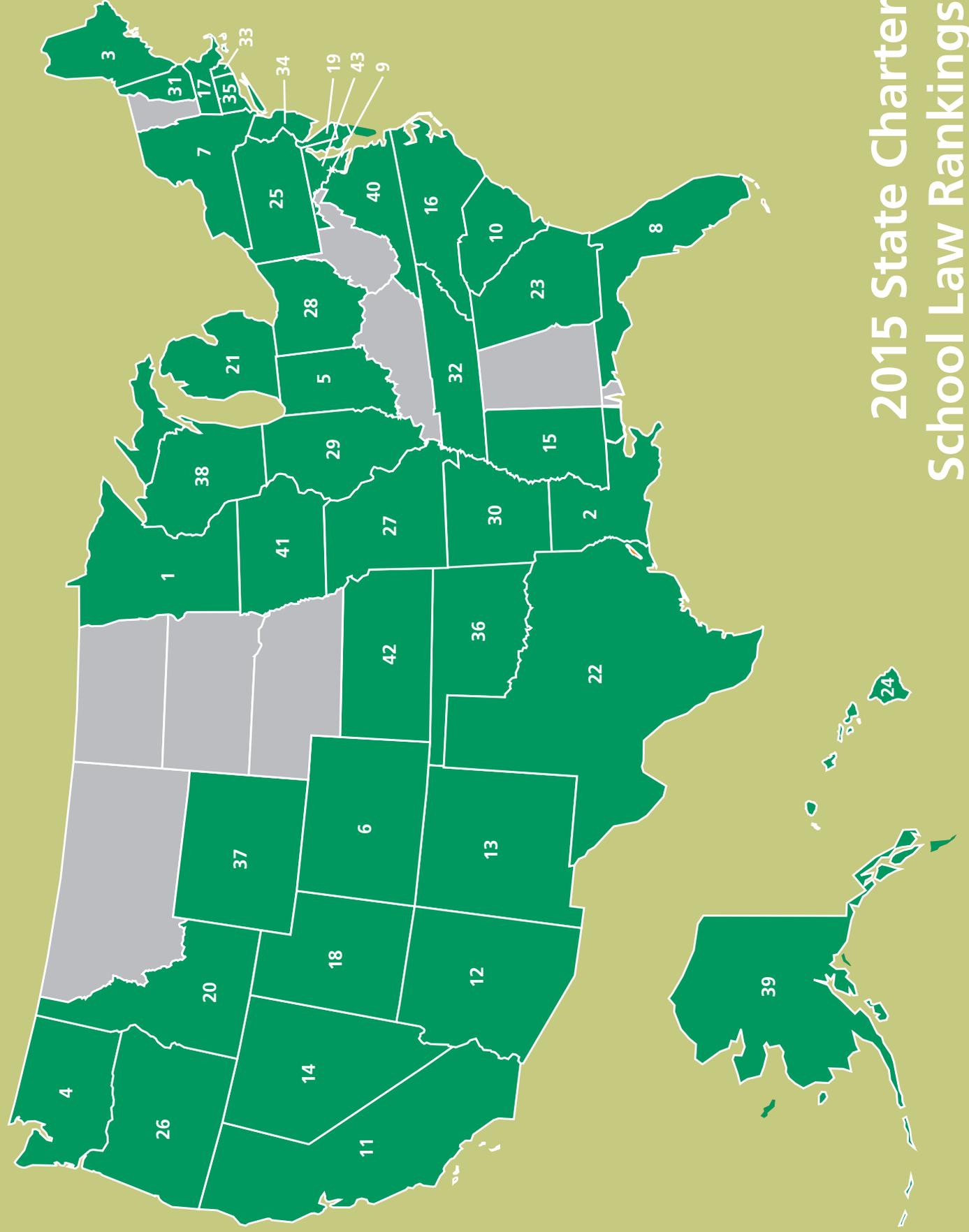
	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
17	<p>Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities, including:</p> <p>17A. Clarity regarding which entity is the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing special education services.</p> <p>17B. 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.
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 percent.</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 percent and 29.9 percent.</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 percent and 19.9 percent.</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 percent.</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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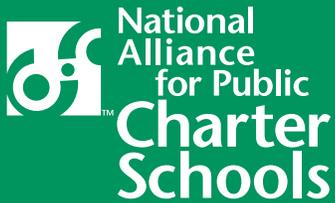
	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Rating				
		0	1	2	3	4
19	<p>Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities, including:</p> <p>19A. A per-pupil facilities allowance that annually reflects actual average district capital costs.</p> <p>19B. A state grant program for charter 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 a 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 other schools.	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems but does not require participation.



2015 State Charter School Law Rankings



The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

1101 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 1010, Washington, DC 20005

202.289.2700 ■ www.publiccharters.org

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