



2016 Model Public Charter School Law

WHAT IS IT?

A Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Charter Public Schools: Second Edition, published by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, is a template for states to write laws governing charter schools which encourage equity and accountability. The first version of the model law was released in 2009.

WHY NOW?

In summer 2016, the National Alliance set an aspirational goal of opening the doors to high-quality charter schools to a total of 4 million students by 2020. Meeting that goal will require states to enact laws that allow those high-quality charter schools to open and thrive. At the same time, new opportunities and challenges have emerged since the first version of the model law was released in 2009. The revised model law has been updated to respond to these opportunities and challenges.

WHAT DOES THE REPORT SAY?

The revised model law encourages states to provide more equitable support to charter public school students, allow for more flexibility to charter schools, and strengthen accountability for charter schools and their authorizers. Specific revisions to the model law include:

Full-time Virtual Schools: Given the low performance of too many [full-time virtual charter schools](#), this sector within the charter school movement remains a top priority for reform.

Funding: To ensure charter schools receive their fair share of funding, state departments of education would be required to create an annual report that compares local, state, and federal funding between traditional district and charter schools.

Authorizers: If an authorizer's portfolio of schools fails to meet a state's minimum standard of performance, that authorizer would not be able to open additional schools.

Facilities: The model law provides a menu of policy options for states to make it easier for charter schools to acquire facilities, including allowing them to request facilities from a school district if at least 50 enrolled charter school students reside in that district.

Renewals, Revocations, and Non-renewals: To encourage an emphasis on outcomes-based approvals, high-performing charter schools would receive expedited approvals and reduced paperwork, while low-performing schools would be automatically closed.

Flexibility: Charter school authorizers would be prohibited from requesting duplicative data entry and submission and from establishing cumbersome reporting requirements for charter schools.

Discipline: To ensure a clear understanding about how student discipline will be handled at a charter school, the application would require an applicant to provide or describe clearly and concisely: a code of student conduct that covers topics such as discipline for general education and special education students and ensures that student rights and due process are protected.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In January 2017, the National Alliance will follow up on the model law report by examining charter school laws across the country, ranking states based on how well their charter school laws align with the revised model law.