

GEORGIA

16

RANK (OUT OF 44)

158

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1994YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED**87**NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017–2018**70,500**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

Changes

- ▶ Georgia's score increased from 145 points to 158 points.
- ▶ Its score increased because of policy changes for Component #17 (Clear Provisions Regarding Special Education Responsibilities) and Component #18 (Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding), and Component #21 (Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions).
- ▶ Its ranking moved from No. 27 (out of 45) to No. 16 (out of 44).

Recommendations

- ▶ Georgia's law does not cap public charter school growth, provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, and provides adequate autonomy and accountability. It has also made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charter schools—although some work remains to be done.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement include continuing to strengthen equitable funding, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, allowing multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter school contract boards, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW		RATING	WEIGHT	TOTAL
1	No Caps The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	Non-district Authorizers Available The state allows multiple authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-based Charter Contracts Required The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
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	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	4	8
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21	Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	1	3	3
TOTAL SCORE				158