

NEW JERSEY

33

RANK (OUT OF 44)

131

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1995

YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED

89

NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017-2018

49,100

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

Changes

- ▶ New Jersey's score remained at 131 points.⁴
- ▶ Its ranking moved from No. 34 (out of 45) to No. 33 (out of 44).

Recommendations

- ▶ New Jersey's law does not contain caps on public charter school growth, includes a statewide authorizing entity, and provides a fair amount of accountability, but it provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

4 | Since New Jersey does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. New Jersey received 124 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 54 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 54 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (131).



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 law allows an applicant anywhere in the state to apply directly to a non-district authorizer.	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 does not include any of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
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 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 some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers 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 Charter School Boards The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
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 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 provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	3	2	6
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
21	Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions The state law does not allow full-time virtual charter schools.	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL SCORE				131