

TEXAS

Changes

- ▶ Texas' score remained at 145 points.
- ▶ Its ranking moved from No. 28 (out of 45) to No. 29 (out of 44).

Recommendations

- ▶ Texas' law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state-authorized public charter schools than it does to district-authorized public charter schools. The requirements for state-authorized charter schools are typically better than those for district-authorized charter schools. For example, the law's provisions for charter school autonomy are much better for state-authorized charter schools. In fact, if our analysis focused on the provisions governing only state-authorized charter schools, Texas' law would be in our Top 10. However, because our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charter schools, Texas is ranked No. 29.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement include ensuring equitable operational funding and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

29

RANK (OUT OF 44)

145

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1995YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED**774**NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017-2018**337,100**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW		RATING	WEIGHT	TOTAL
1 No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
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 two or more authorizing paths in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable activity in at least two of those options.	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law’s provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and 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 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 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 all of the model law’s provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards for some schools but not others.	2	3	6
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law’s requirements for student 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.	2	3	6
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 charter public 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 provides charter eligibility but not access.	3	1	3
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, 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 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				145