

# ARKANSAS

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**30**

RANK (OUT OF 45)

**141**

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

**1995**YEAR PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW  
WAS ENACTED**82**NUMBER OF PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN  
2017-2018**28,200**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

## Changes

- ▶ Arkansas' score remained at 141 points.
- ▶ Its ranking stayed at No. 30 (out of 45).

## 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 a state authorizer and adequate accountability provisions, it provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charter schools.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding, further ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW		RATING	WEIGHT	TOTAL
1	<b>No Caps</b> The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	<b>A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed</b> The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	<b>Non-district Authorizers Available</b> The state law allows an applicant anywhere in the state to apply directly to a non-district authorizer.	4	3	12
4	<b>Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required</b> The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	4	3	12
5	<b>Adequate Authorizer Funding</b> The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	<b>Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes</b> The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	<b>Performance-based Charter Contracts Required</b> The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	<b>Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes</b> The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	<b>Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions</b> The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	<b>Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers</b> The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	<b>Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards</b> The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	<b>Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures</b> The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	3	2	6
13	<b>Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations</b> The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	<b>Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption</b> The state law requires some charter schools to be part of existing school district personnel policies.	2	3	6
15	<b>Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed</b> 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	<b>Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access</b> The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	<b>Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities</b> The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	2	2	4
18	<b>Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding</b> 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	<b>Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities</b> The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	4	8
20	<b>Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems</b> The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	2	4
21	<b>Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions</b> The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	1	3	3
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>				<b>141</b>