

COLORADO

Changes

- ▶ Colorado's score remained at 181 points.
- ▶ Its ranking stayed at No. 2 (out of 45).

Recommendations

- ▶ Colorado's law does not cap public charter school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools, and provides multiple authorizers and a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. It has also made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charter public schools—although some work remains to be done.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement in the law include continuing to strengthen equitable access to capital funding and facilities and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

2

RANK (OUT OF 45)

181

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1993YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED**250**NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017-2018**120,700**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 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 provides multiple authorizers or a robust appellate process for charter school applicants.	3	3	9
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 all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	4	2	8
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
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 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 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 The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified unless a waiver is granted in the charter contract.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption The state law does not directly address this issue but has been consistently interpreted to exempt charter schools from district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
16	Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access The state law provides charter school extracurricular and interscholastic activity eligibility and access.	4	1	4
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 many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	3	4	12
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				181