

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

10

RANK (OUT OF 45)

166

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1996YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED**122**NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017-2018**43,800**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

Changes

- ▶ D.C.'s score remained at 166 points.
- ▶ Its ranking went from No. 9 (out of 44) to No. 10 (out of 45).

Recommendations

- ▶ D.C.'s law has a cap on public charter schools that allows for ample growth, includes an independent charter board as the authorizer, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charter schools.
- ▶ The biggest area for potential improvement is ensuring equitable funding for charter schools.

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 creates an independent charter board as the authorizer	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required The state law includes all of the elements of the model law’s authorizer and overall program accountability system.	4	3	12
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 decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-based Charter Contracts Required The state law includes all of the model law’s provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	4	4	16
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 all of the model law’s requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	4	2	8
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 does not require any of a school’s teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
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 provides eligibility but not access.	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 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 provides that only employees transferring from a local district school to a charter school may elect to stay in the D.C. retirement system. Otherwise, charter employees do not have access to the system.	2	2	4
21	Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions The state law does not include any of the model law’s requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE				166