

ILLINOIS

37

RANK (OUT OF 45)

124

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1996YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED**142**NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017-2018**67,300**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

Changes

- ▶ Illinois' score decreased from 130 points to 124 points.
- ▶ Its score decreased because of policy changes for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available).
- ▶ Its ranking moved from No. 35 (out of 44) to No. 37 (out of 45).

Recommendations

- ▶ While Illinois' law provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, it contains caps on charter school growth, only allows charter schools facing non-renewal and revocation decisions by districts to appeal to the state (instead of also allowing applicants for new charter schools to appeal district denials to the state), and provides inequitable facilities funding to charter schools.
- ▶ Illinois' law needs major work in several areas—most significantly, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, creating one or more non-district authorizers or allowing applicants for new charter schools to appeal denials to the state, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

| ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW | | RATING | WEIGHT | TOTAL |
|--|---|--------|--------|------------|
| 1 | No Caps The state has a cap with room for adequate growth. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 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 includes an independent charter board as the authorizer. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required The state law requires an applicant to apply to a district. While the state law does not allow a new school applicant to appeal a district denial to a non-district authorizer, it allows an applicant for a charter school renewal or revocation to appeal a district denial to a non-district authorizer. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Adequate Authorizer Funding The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 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 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 many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 | Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, 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, requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters, and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 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 explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but prohibits them for other schools. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 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 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 for some schools but denies access to these systems for other schools. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 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 | | | | 124 |