

# SOUTH CAROLINA

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**19**

RANK (OUT OF 45)

**155**

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

**1996**YEAR PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW  
WAS ENACTED**69**NUMBER OF PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN  
2017-2018**34,400**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

## Changes

- ▶ South Carolina's score remained at 155 points.
- ▶ Its ranking stayed at No. 19 (out of 45).

## Recommendations

- ▶ South Carolina law does not cap public charter school growth, provides multiple authorizing options to charter school applicants, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charter schools. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charter schools, especially for facilities, technology, and transportation.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement are ensuring equitable funding by increasing per-pupil funding, providing equitable access to capital funding, and ensuring access to vacant and underutilized facilities. Other areas are ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, allowing multi-school charter contracts or multi-contract governing boards, 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 does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	<b>A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed</b> The state allows new start-up and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3	<b>Non-district Authorizers Available</b> The state allows two or more authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option. There is considerable authorizing activity in at least two of those options.	4	3	12
4	<b>Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required</b> The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
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 many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
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 some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
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 all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	<b>Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures</b> The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	4	2	8
13	<b>Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations</b> The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	<b>Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption</b> The state law exempts some schools from existing school district personnel policies but not other schools (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	<b>Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed</b> The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16	<b>Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access</b> The state law provides charter student access to extracurricular activities at noncharter public schools.	4	1	4
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 between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
19	<b>Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities</b> 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	<b>Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems</b> The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems but not other schools.	3	2	6
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>155</b>