

TENNESSEE

24

RANK (OUT OF 45)

153

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

2002

YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED

112

NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2017-2018

42,900

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

Changes

- ▶ Tennessee's score increased from 147 points to 153 points.
- ▶ Its score increased because of policy changes for Component #3 (Multiple Authorizers Available) and Component #4 (Authorizer & Overall Program Accountability System Required).
- ▶ Its ranking moved from No. 28 (out of 44) to No. 24 (out of 45).

Recommendations

- ▶ While Tennessee's law does not cap public charter school growth, provides an appellate process for public charter school applicants rejected by local school districts, and provides a fair amount of accountability, it affords insufficient autonomy and provides inequitable funding.
- ▶ Tennessee's law needs improvement in several areas, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, beefing up the requirements for charter school oversight, and ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers.

9 | Since Tennessee does not allow full-time virtual charter schools, the highest score possible is 228 for the remaining 20 components. However, we converted this score to one that is comparable to the states that allow full-time virtual charter schools. Tennessee received 146 out of the 228 points available for the remaining 20 components, or 64 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 21 components (240) by 64 percent to get a score comparable to the other states (154).



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 allows two or more authorizing options in some but not all situations, with direct access to each option. There is some authorizing activity in at least two of those options.	2	3	6
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.	3	3	9
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 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 a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
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 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 allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
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 is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	2	2	4
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 between 10 percent and 19.9 percent.	2	4	8
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 does not allow full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			153