

# WASHINGTON

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**3**

RANK (OUT OF 45)

**179**

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

**2016**YEAR PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW  
WAS ENACTED

## Changes

- ▶ Washington's score stayed at 179 points.
- ▶ Its ranking remained at No. 3 (out of 45).

## Recommendations

- ▶ Washington's law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, and gives operational autonomy to public charter schools. The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 40 charter schools during the initial five years that it is in effect and inequitable funding for public charter school students.
- ▶ Potential areas for improvement include lifting the state's cap, ensuring equitable funding, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

**8**NUMBER OF PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN  
2017-2018**2,200**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
STUDENTS IN 2017-18

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW	RATING	WEIGHT	TOTAL
<b>1 No Caps</b> The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
<b>2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed</b> The state allows new start-ups but not public school conversions.	3	2	6
<b>3 Non-district Authorizers Available</b> The state allows multiple authorizing options in all situations, with direct access to each option.	4	3	12
<b>4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required</b> The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	4	3	12
<b>5 Adequate Authorizer Funding</b> The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	4	2	8
<b>6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes</b> The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	4	4	16
<b>7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required</b> The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	4	4	16
<b>8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes</b> The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
<b>9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions</b> The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
<b>10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers</b> The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
<b>11 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
<b>12 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
<b>13 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
<b>14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption</b> The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
<b>15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed</b> The state law allows both of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	2	8
<b>16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access</b> The state law provides charter school extracurricular and interscholastic activity eligibility and access.	4	1	4
<b>17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities</b> The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	3	2	6
<b>18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding</b> The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational and categorical funding, but there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students receive versus district students.	1	4	4
<b>19 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
<b>20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems</b> The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
<b>21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions</b> The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>179</b>

