

ALABAMA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2015

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

5th
OUT OF 45

177
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alabama’s law contains a cap that allows for ample growth, includes a state authorizing pathway, has strong quality-control components, gives operational autonomy to public charter schools, and provides equitable operational and categorical funding to charter schools. The primary weaknesses of the law are that it provides inequitable facilities funding and inadequate accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

The main places for improvement are ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	598
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	32%
Black	64%
Hispanic	1%
Asian	1%
Other	2%
FRPL Participation Rate	56%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	2
Public School Share	0%
School Openings	1

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	3	3	9
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	3	3	9
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	3	2	6
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	4	4	16
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	4	4	16
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	3	4	12
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	3	4	12
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	2	2	4
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	4	2	8
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	4	3	12
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	4	3	12
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	2	2	4
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	1	4	4
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			177