

ALASKA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1995

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

43rd

OUT OF 45

83

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alaska’s law does not cap public charter school growth and includes an appellate mechanism for charter school applicants rejected by districts, but it also provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable facilities funding.

Alaska’s law still needs major improvement. Potential starting points include beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Students	7,126
Public School Student Enrollment Share	6%
Student Demographics	
White	65%
Black	1%
Hispanic	5%
Asian	2%
Other	27%
FRPL Participation Rate	16%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	30
Public School Share	6%
School Openings	0

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	4	3	12
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	0	3	0
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	2	2	4
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	1	4	4
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	0	2	0
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	0	3	0
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	1	2	2
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	3	1	3
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
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	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			83