

ARIZONA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1994

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

13th
OUT OF 45

160
TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Arizona’s law does not have a cap on public charter school growth, allows multiple nondistrict authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to its charter schools. However, the law still provides inequitable funding to charter school students by barring their access to significant funding streams.

Potential areas for improvement in Arizona’s law include ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, providing adequate authorizer funding, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

| CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR) | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Number of Students | 207,923 |
| Public School Student Enrollment Share | 22% |
| Student Demographics | |
| White | 43% |
| Black | 6% |
| Hispanic | 39% |
| Asian | 6% |
| Other | 7% |
| FRPL Participation Rate | 24% |
| CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR) | |
| Number of Schools | 557 |
| Public School Share | 26% |
| School Openings | 16 |

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 | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 Adequate Authorizer Funding | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 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 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| TOTAL SCORE | | | 160 |