

CONNECTICUT

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1996

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

36th

OUT OF 45

126

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Connecticut’s law contains significant restrictions on growth and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to public charter schools. Also, it creates a nondistrict authorizing option, but it connects the school approval and opening process to legislative decisions about funding in a way that significantly inhibits school approvals and openings.

Much improvement is still needed in Connecticut’s charter school law, including lifting its remaining restrictions on growth and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Students	10,433
Public School Student Enrollment Share	2%
Student Demographics	
White	7%
Black	59%
Hispanic	30%
Asian	2%
Other	2%

FRPL Participation Rate 66%

CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)

Number of Schools	25
Public School Share	2%
School Openings	1

MODEL LAW COMPONENT SCORE

COMPONENT	RATING x WEIGHT		TOTAL
1 No Caps	1	3	3
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	1	3	3
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	4	3	12
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
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	3	2	6
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	4	3	12
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	3	3	9
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	0	2	0
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	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	2	4	8
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	3	2	6
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			126