

# IOWA

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 2002

## MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

**41<sup>st</sup>**  
OUT OF 45

**91**  
TOTAL POINTS

### RECOMMENDATIONS

While Iowa’s law does not cap public charter school growth, it allows only district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Iowa’s law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law’s four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and 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	442
Public School Student Enrollment Share	0%
Student Demographics	
White	43%
Black	28%
Hispanic	10%
Asian	3%
Other	16%
FRPL Participation Rate	65%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	3
Public School Share	0%
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	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	2	4	8
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	2	4	8
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	2	4	8
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	1	3	3
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	3	2	6
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	0	3	0
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	1	2	2
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	0	4	0
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>91</b>