

WISCONSIN

CHARTER SCHOOL LAW ENACTED IN 1993

MODEL LAW STATE RANKINGS

39th

OUT OF 45

109

TOTAL POINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Wisconsin’s law is largely cap-free, allows multiple authorizing options in all districts, and provides adequate autonomy for public charter schools, but it provides inadequate accountability and inequitable funding to charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include beefing up the law’s application, oversight, and renewal requirements, 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	44,489
Public School Student Enrollment Share	5%
Student Demographics	
White	48%
Black	21%
Hispanic	20%
Asian	6%
Other	5%
FRPL Participation Rate	49%
CHARTER SCHOOLS (2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR)	
Number of Schools	236
Public School Share	11%
School Openings	11

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	4	3	12
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	1	3	3
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	1	2	2
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	3	4	12
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	1	2	2
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	2	3	6
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	2	3	6
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	4	2	8
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	1	2	2
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	1	4	4
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	1	2	2
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	0	3	0
TOTAL SCORE			109