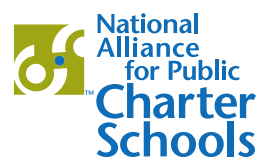




# Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter School Laws

THIRD EDITION  
JANUARY 2012



# **The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools**

is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. Our mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement for all students by fostering a strong charter sector.

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Todd Ziebarth, Vice President of State Advocacy and Support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS). The analyses of the 42 state public charter school laws against the 20 essential components of NAPCS's *A New Model Law For Supporting The Growth of High-Quality Public Charter Schools* were conducted by Ziebarth, Louann Bierlein Palmer, Professor at Western Michigan University (who developed the original list of essential components of a strong public charter school law while she was at the Morrison Institute at Arizona State University during the early 1990s), and Margaret Lin, President of Margaret Lin Consulting (also the founding executive director of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers).

We want to thank The Joyce Foundation for their financial support of this effort. Their backing of this work, beginning with creation of the model law itself, has been essential in moving state laws toward better supporting the creation of high-quality public charter schools.

# INTRODUCTION

**2011** has been a significant year for charter school policy across the country.

At long last, Maine enacted a charter school law, becoming the 42nd jurisdiction that allows this innovative public school option.

Ten states lifted their caps on charter school growth (either partially or entirely). Most notably, North Carolina eliminated its cap of 100 charter schools, Michigan phased out its cap on the number of charter schools that can be approved by public universities, and Indiana and Wisconsin removed their limits on virtual charter school enrollment.

Seven states strengthened their authorizing environments. Most significantly, four states created new statewide charter boards (Illinois, Indiana, Maine, and Nevada), while New Mexico and Rhode Island passed major quality control measures setting the stage for the future growth of high-quality public charter schools in these states.

Ten states improved their support for charter school funding and facilities. Of particular note, Indiana enacted legislation that creates a charter school facilities assistance program to make grants and loans to charter schools, appropriates \$17 million to this program, and requires school districts to make vacant space available to public charter schools to lease for \$1 a year or to buy for \$1. Also, Texas enacted a law that allows state-authorized charter schools that have an investment grade rating and meet certain financial criteria to apply to have their bonds guaranteed by the Permanent School Fund.

As of this writing, there were bills with major charter school improvements pending in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In addition, we expect to see big pushes for strong legislation in several other states in 2012.

What's most encouraging about the charter school movement's legislative efforts is that they're more frequently marrying growth and quality. As we've long argued at NAPCS, the long-term viability of the charter school movement is primarily dependent on the quality of the charter schools that open. It's critical that state lawmakers recognize the importance of charter school quality – and the impact that their laws have on it. We are glad to see that they are increasingly doing so.

We hope this report, and the model law it is based upon, continue to be useful tools to charter school supporters as they push for laws that support the creation of more high-quality public charter schools, particularly for those students most in need of a better public school option.



**Todd Ziebarth**  
Vice President for State Advocacy and Support  
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

# THE 2012 STATE CHARTER SCHOOL LAW RANKINGS

There were some significant moves within our rankings this year. Most notably, there is a new #1 state: Maine. By closely aligning their recently enacted charter school law with NAPCS's model law, Maine landed at the top spot on this year's list.

Notable jumps upward in the rankings this year occurred in the following states:

- Indiana made the biggest jump in the rankings this year, moving 19 spots from #25 to #6.
- New Mexico also made a big move, jumping 16 spots from #20 to #4.
- Rhode Island jumped 11 spots from #37 to #26.
- Illinois moved six spots from #30 to #24.

- Michigan moved four spots from #14 to #10.

Notable drops in the rankings this year included the following:

- Georgia dropped seven spots from #7 to #14.
- South Carolina fell six spots from #19 to #25.
- Four states dropped five places: Missouri (#13 to #18), Oklahoma (#22 to #27), Connecticut (#24 to #29), and New Jersey (#26 to #31).

Table 1 below contains the full 2012 State Charter School Law Rankings.

**Table 1: The 2012 State Charter School Law Rankings<sup>1</sup>**

2012 Ranking	State	2012 Score	2011 Ranking
1	Maine	158	No Law
2	Minnesota	154	1
3	Florida	142	2
4	New Mexico	135	20
5	Massachusetts	132	3
6	Indiana	132	25
7	Colorado	130	4
8	New York	129	5
9	California	128	6
10	Michigan	126	14
11	District of Columbia	123	8
12	Utah	121	10
13	Louisiana	119	9
14	Georgia	117	7
15	Arizona	117	11
16	Pennsylvania	115	12
17	Arkansas	113	15
18	Missouri	113	13
19	New Hampshire	112	16
20	Nevada	111	23
21	Oregon	109	17

2012 Ranking	State	2012 Score	2011 Ranking
22	Delaware	107	18
23	Texas	105	21
24	Illinois	104	30
25	South Carolina	104	19
26	Rhode Island	103	37
27	Oklahoma	102	22
28	Ohio	101	27
29	Connecticut	97	24
30	Tennessee	97	29
31	New Jersey	92	26
32	Idaho	91	28
33	North Carolina	91	32
34	Wyoming	80	31
35	Hawaii	74	33
36	Wisconsin	69	34
37	Virginia	67	35
38	Iowa	65	36
39	Kansas	60	38
40	Alaska	58	39
41	Maryland	39	40
42	Mississippi	37	41

<sup>1</sup> In case of a tie, we looked at each state's total weighted score for the four quality control components of the NAPCS model law (see Appendix A for more detail about these components).

There were also some considerable changes in the total scores for several states. 14 states saw their scores increase, while four states experienced a score decrease.

Notable increases in scores occurred in the following states:

- Rhode Island experienced the biggest score increase, gaining 39 points (from 64 to 103).
- Indiana's score increased by 35 points (from 97 to 132).
- New Mexico's score increased by 31 points (from 104 to 135).
- Illinois's score increased by 17 points (from 87 to 104).
- Michigan's score increased by 16 points (from 110 to 126).

- North Carolina's score increased by 15 points (from 76 to 91).

Notable decreases occurred in the following states:

- Georgia experienced the biggest score decrease, losing nine points (from 126 to 117).
- New Jersey's score decreased by four points (from 96 to 92).
- Two state scores decreased by three points: Idaho (from 94 to 91) and Louisiana (from 122 to 119).

Table 2 below contains the score gains and losses for each state.

**Table 2: State Score Gains and Losses**

State	2012 Score	2011 Score	Score Gain (or Loss)
Rhode Island	103	64	39
Indiana	132	97	35
New Mexico	135	104	31
Illinois	104	87	17
Michigan	126	110	16
North Carolina	91	76	15
Nevada	111	97	14
Florida	142	135	7
Tennessee	97	90	7
Arkansas	113	107	6
New Hampshire	112	106	6
Ohio	101	95	6
Oregon	109	105	4
Delaware	107	104	3
Texas	105	102	3
Minnesota	154	154	0
Massachusetts	132	132	0
Colorado	130	130	0
New York	129	129	0
California	128	128	0
District of Columbia	123	123	0

State	2012 Score	2011 Score	Score Gain (or Loss)
Utah	121	121	0
Arizona	117	117	0
Pennsylvania	115	115	0
Missouri	113	113	0
South Carolina	104	104	0
Oklahoma	102	102	0
Connecticut	97	97	0
Wyoming	80	80	0
Hawaii	74	74	0
Wisconsin	69	69	0
Virginia	67	67	0
Iowa	65	65	0
Kansas	60	60	0
Alaska	58	58	0
Maryland	39	39	0
Mississippi	37	37	0
Louisiana	119	122	-3
Idaho	91	94	-3
New Jersey	92	96	-4
Georgia	117	126	-9

# LEADING STATES FOR THE 20 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NAPCS MODEL LAW

For the first time, this year's rankings report details the leaders for each of the 20 essential components of the NAPCS model law – i.e., those

states that received the highest rating for a particular component.<sup>2</sup> Table 3 below contains the leading states for each component.

**Table 3: The Leading States For the 20 Essential Components of the NAPCS Model Law**

1) <b>No Caps:</b> Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming.
2) <b>A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed:</b> Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming
3) <b>Multiple Authorizers Available:</b> Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Utah
4) <b>Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required:</b> Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Ohio
5) <b>Adequate Authorizer Funding:</b> Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada
6) <b>Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes:</b> Arkansas, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania
7) <b>Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required:</b> Maine
8) <b>Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes:</b> Massachusetts, New Mexico, Rhode Island
9) <b>Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions:</b> Arkansas
10) <b>Educational Service Providers Allowed:</b> Massachusetts
11) <b>Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards:</b> Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah
12) <b>Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures:</b> District of Columbia, Maine
13) <b>Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations:</b> Arizona, District of Columbia, Oklahoma
14) <b>Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption:</b> Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming
15) <b>Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed:</b> Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, Utah
16) <b>Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access:</b> Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Utah
17) <b>Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities:</b> Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania
18) <b>Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding:</b> Maine
19) <b>Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities:</b> California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Indiana
20) <b>Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems:</b> Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah

2 For 16 of the 20 components, the leading states received a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 4. For Components 4, 6, 16, and 19, no states received a 4, so the leading states are those that received a rating of 3.

In addition to pointing out the leading states for each of the 20 components, we also want to highlight the leading states in two groupings of policies: quality control and autonomy.

**Quality Control.** Both our model law and our rankings report elevate the prominence of quality control provisions in state charter laws. These quality control provisions cover the following four components from the model law:

- Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes
- Performance-Based Charter Contracts
- Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes
- Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions

As states look to improve their work in these areas, we recommend that they especially look to the state quality control policies already on the books in five states: **Maine, Arkansas, Florida, Massachusetts, and New Mexico.**

**Autonomy.** In addition to accountability, school-level flexibility is one of the core principles of public charter schooling. Of the 20 essential components of the model law, the following three components most directly impact public charter school autonomy:

- Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards
- Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations
- Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption

There are two jurisdictions that received perfect scores on these components: the District of Columbia and Oklahoma. Their laws make it clear that public charter schools are fiscally and legally autonomous entities, with independent governing boards. Their laws also clearly provide automatic exemptions from most state and district laws and regulations and automatically exclude schools from existing collective bargaining agreements.

# ALASKA

#40 (OUT OF 42)

58 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

IN 2011-12: 27

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 6,000

Alaska did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 58 points and its ranking dropped from #39 to #40.

Alaska'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 six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Alaska's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/AK>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>

# ARIZONA

#15 (OUT OF 42)

117 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1994

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 519

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 136,000

Arizona did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 117 points. However, its ranking dropped from #11 to

#15 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Arizona's charter school policy environment remains supportive of charter growth. Potential areas for improvement in Arizona's law include providing adequate authorizer funding, beefing up performance contracting requirements, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Arizona's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/AZ>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is considerable authorizing activity.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows both of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>

# ARKANSAS

#17 (OUT OF 42)

113 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 31

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 11,000

In 2011, Arkansas enacted legislation that partially lifted its cap on charter schools. As a result, its score on Component #1 increased from three points to nine points and its overall score increased from 107 points to 113 points. However,

its ranking dropped from #15 to #17 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

Along with Florida, Massachusetts, and New Mexico, Arkansas ranks the second highest on the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine). Potential areas for improvement include creating additional authorizing options, increasing operational autonomy, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Arkansas's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/AR>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	4	4	16

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires some charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows an independent public charter school board to oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113</b>

# CALIFORNIA

#9 (OUT OF 42)

128 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1992

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 983

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 410,000

California did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 128 points. However, its ranking dropped from #6 to #9 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

California is a leader in providing facilities support to public charter schools, although challenges persist. Potential areas for improvement in its charter law include strengthening authorizer accountability, beefing up requirements for performance-based charter contracts, and enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers.

Below is a general summary of California's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/CA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows either of these arrangements, but only requires schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	2	1	2
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law does not explicitly address charter eligibility and access, but under the state's statutorily defined "permissive" education code, these practices are permitted since they are not expressly prohibited.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	3	9
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>

# COLORADO

#7 (OUT OF 42)

130 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1993

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 177

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 82,000

Colorado did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 130 points. However, its ranking dropped from #4 to #7 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Colorado remains a leader in providing facilities support to public charter schools, although challenges remain. Potential areas for improvement in the law include enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers as well as enacting statutory guidelines to govern multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.

Below is a general summary of Colorado's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/CO>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified unless a waiver is granted in the charter contract.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law doesn't directly address this issue, but has been consistently interpreted to exempt charter schools from district collective bargaining agreements.	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	3	9
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130</b>

# CONNECTICUT

#29 (OUT OF 42)

97 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1997

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 17

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 6,000

Connecticut did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 97 points. However, its ranking dropped from #24

to #29 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Much improvement is needed in Connecticut's charter school law, including lifting its remaining restrictions on growth, providing additional authorizing options, beefing up performance contracting requirements, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Connecticut's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/CT>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	0	4	0
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	1	0
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	3	2	6
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>

# DELAWARE

#22 (OUT OF 42)

107 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 22

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 11,000

In 2011, Delaware enacted legislation to allow the governing boards of highly successful charter schools to hold multiple charter contracts with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school. As a result, its score on Component #15

increased from one point to four points and its overall score increased from 104 points to 107 points. However, its ranking dropped from #18 to #22 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

Delaware law's needs significant improvement in several areas including expanding authorizing options, beefing up its provisions for performance-based contracts, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Delaware's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/DE>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap, but allows districts to restrict growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for ensuring state funding for low-incidence, high-cost services, but not for providing services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#11 (OUT OF 42)

123 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 105

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 33,000

D.C. did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 123 points. However, its ranking dropped from #8 to

#11 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

D.C. remains a leader in providing operational autonomy to its charter schools and in providing facilities support to public charter schools, although challenges remain. The biggest area for potential improvement is ensuring equitable operational funding for charter schools.

Below is a general summary of D.C.'s law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/DC>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is considerable authorizing activity.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	4	1	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified unless a waiver is granted in the charter contract.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	3	9
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides that only employees transferring from a local district school to a charter school may elect to stay in the DC retirement system. Otherwise, charter employees do not have access to the system.	1	2	2
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>

# FLORIDA

#3 (OUT OF 42)

142 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 520

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 179,000

In 2011, Florida enacted legislation to permit virtual charter schools and to make it easier for high-performing charter schools and systems to replicate and expand.

Florida's specific scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #2, its score increased from two points to four points because it now allows virtual charter schools.
- For Component #9, its score increased from eight points to 12 points because of further clarification from the state about its policies for this component.

tion from the state about its policies for this component.

- For Component #16, its score increased from two points to three points because of further clarification from the state about its policies for this component.

With Maine enacting the nation's #1 charter school law because of its strong alignment with NAPCS's model law, its ranking slipped from #2 to #3.

Florida ranks second highest on the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), tied with Arkansas, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. One potential area for improvement is creating authorizer accountability requirements.

Below is a general summary of Florida's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/FL>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is considerable authorizing activity.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>

# GEORGIA

#14 (OUT OF 42)

117 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1994

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 104

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 56,000

Georgia did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. In May 2011, however, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the 2008 law creating a statewide charter school authorizer in Georgia was unconstitutional, effectively removing

a viable authorizer option for the state. As a result, Georgia's score on Component #3 fell from 12 points to three points and its overall score dropped from 126 points to 117 points. The state's ranking slipped from #7 to #14.

As it looks ahead, Georgia's biggest challenge is determining how to respond to the ruling by the state supreme court. Without a bold response like a constitutional amendment, the future of the charter school movement in the state is uncertain.

Below is a general summary of Georgia's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/GA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>

# HAWAII

#35 (OUT OF 42)

74 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1994

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 31

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 8,600

Hawaii did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 74 points. However, its ranking dropped from #33 to

#35 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Hawaii's law still needs significant improvement in several areas, including completely removing its caps, beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decision-making processes and renewal, non-renewal, and revocation processes, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Hawaii's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/HI>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>

# IDAHO

#32 (OUT OF 42)

91 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 43

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 19,000

In 2011, Idaho enacted legislation enhancing teacher and administrator evaluations, pay for performance, and classroom technology for public schools. However, this legislation did not exempt charter schools, thereby diminishing charter autonomy over staffing, instructional design, and

budgeting. As a result, Idaho's score on Component #13 fell from nine points to six points and its overall score dropped from 94 points to 91 points. The state's ranking slipped from #28 to #32.

Idaho's law is open to new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools and fares well on its requirements for charter school oversight. Potential areas for improvement include removing all caps on charter school growth, requiring performance-based contracts, beefing up its renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation requirements, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Idaho's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/ID>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	0	4	0
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires a school's teachers to be certified, although teachers may apply for a waiver or any of the limited alternative certification options provided by the state board of education.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>

# ILLINOIS

#24 (OUT OF 42)

104 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 122

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 49,000

In 2011, Illinois enacted legislation to strengthen its authorizing environment. As a result, its scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #3, its score increased from three points to six points because of the creation of a new statewide authorizer.
- For Component #4, its score increased from three points to nine points because of strengthened

authorizer accountability requirements.

- For Component #5, its score increased from zero points to four points because of improved authorizer funding provisions.
- For Component #8, its score increased from four points to eight points because of enhanced oversight and monitoring requirements.

Its overall score increased from 87 points to 104 points and its ranking increased from #30 to #24.

Illinois's law still needs work in several areas, most significantly by ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Illinois's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/IL>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants but the authorizing activities of such entities is limited.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but not others.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools, but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

# INDIANA

#6 (OUT OF 42)

132 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 2001

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 63

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 26,000

In 2011, Indiana overhauled its charter school law. As a result, its overall score increased from 97 points to 132 points – the second-largest jump for any state on record. Its ranking catapulted from #25 to #6 – the largest leap for any state on record.

Because of this legislative overhaul, Indiana's scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #1, its score increased from six points to 12 points because of the removal of caps.
- For Component #3, its score increased from six points to 12 points because of the creation of additional authorizers.
- For Component #4, its score increased from zero points to six points because of strengthened authorizer accountability requirements.

- For Component #5, its score increased from two points to six points because of improved authorizer funding provisions.
- For Component #8, its score increased from eight points to 12 points because of enhanced oversight and monitoring requirements.
- For Component #14, its score increased from six points to 12 points because of new flexibility regarding collective bargaining agreements for conversion charter schools.
- For Component #19, its score increased from six points to nine points because of improved access to capital funding and facilities for charter schools.

Potential areas for improvement include beefing up the requirements for renewal, non-renewal, and revocation and enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers.

Below is a general summary of Indiana's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/IN>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	3	3	9
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132</b>

# IOWA

#38 (OUT OF 42)

65 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 2002

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 6

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 300

Iowa did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 65 points. However, its ranking dropped from #36 to #38 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Iowa's law needs improvement across the board, most notably by allowing start-up charter schools and virtual charter schools, providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Iowa's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/IA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows only public school conversions.	0	1	0
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions.	0	3	0
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	1	0
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	3	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>

# KANSAS

#39 (OUT OF 42)

60 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1994

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 18

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 4,400

Kansas did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 60 points and its ranking dropped from #38 to #39.

While Kansas's law is cap-free and is open to new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual

schools, it needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Kansas's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/KS>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	3	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

# LOUISIANA

#13 (OUT OF 42)

119 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 99

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 43,000

Louisiana did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. However, its score for Component #19 decreased from six points to three points because of further clarification from

the state about its policies for this component. Its overall score fell from 122 points to 119 points and its ranking dropped from #9 to #13.

Louisiana's charter school policy environment remains supportive of charter growth. One potential area for improvement is ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities. Another area is enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers.

Below is a general summary of Louisiana's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/LA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	4	2	8
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	3	2	6
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>

# MAINE

#1 (OUT OF 42)

158 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 2011

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: N/A

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: N/A

In 2011, Maine finally enacted a public charter school law. With a few significant exceptions, Maine's law includes most elements of NAPCS's model law. Because of its relatively strong alignment with the model law, Maine's new law scored 158 out of 208 points, making it the strongest charter school law in the country.

Maine's law allows multiple authorizers (via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer), is well aligned with the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), provides operational autonomy to charter schools, and purports to offer equitable operational funding for charter schools.

The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of no more than 10 schools approved by the new statewide authorizer for the first 10 years of the program and almost no provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Maine's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/ME>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants but the authorizing activities of such entities is limited.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	4	4	16
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	4	1	4
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	4	3	12
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158</b>

# MARYLAND

#41 (OUT OF 42)

39 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 2003

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 52

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 18,000

Maryland did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 39 points and its ranking dropped from #40 to #41.

The primary strength of Maryland's law is that it's cap-free. However, it needs improvement elsewhere. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Maryland's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/MD>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	0	4	0
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	0	4	0
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	0	4	0
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes none of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	0	4	0
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	0	3	0
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>

# MASSACHUSETTS

#5 (OUT OF 42)

132 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1993

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 72

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 32,000

Massachusetts did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 132 points. However, its ranking dropped from #3 to #5 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Along with Arkansas, Florida, and New Mexico, Massachusetts ranks the second highest on the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine). Potential areas for improvement include removing the remaining caps on charter school growth, expanding authorizing options, ensuring equitable operational funding, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Massachusetts's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/MA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	4	2	8
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132</b>

# MICHIGAN

#10 (OUT OF 42)

126 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1993

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 259

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 123,000

In 2011, Michigan passed legislation that amended its charter school law in several places. As a result, its overall scores increased from 110 points to 126 points. Its ranking jumped from #14 to #10.

Because of the newly enacted legislation, Michigan's scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #1, its score increased from six points to nine points due to the removal of most of the state's caps on charter school growth.
- For Component #6, its score increased from four points to eight points due to strengthened application, review, and decision-making processes.

- For Component #8, its score increased from eight points to 12 points because of enhanced oversight and monitoring requirements.
- For Component #10, its score increased from four points to six points because of improved policies governing the relationships between public charter schools and educational service providers.
- For Component #14, its score increased from nine points to 12 points because of the removal of the provision that required district-authorized charters to follow collective bargaining agreements.

Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Michigan's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/MI..>

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools, but not public school conversions.	3	1	3
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126</b>

# MINNESOTA

**#2** (OUT OF 42)

**154 points** (OUT OF 208)

**YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1991**

**ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN**

**2011-12: 148**

**ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-**

**DENTS IN 2011-12: 40,000**

Minnesota did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 154 points. With Maine enacting a charter school law scoring a 158 because of its strong alignment

with NAPCS's model law, Minnesota's ranking dropped from #1 to #2.

Minnesota ranks relatively high on the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine). One potential area of improvement in Minnesota's law is providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities. Another area is enacting statutory guidelines to govern multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.

Below is a general summary of Minnesota's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/MN>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	4	2	8
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	3	3	9
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>

# MISSISSIPPI

#42 (OUT OF 42)

37 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 2010

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 0

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 0

Mississippi did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 37 points and its ranking dropped from #41 to #42.

Significant improvements are needed in every aspect of this law, most notably by allowing start-up charter schools and virtual charter schools, providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Mississippi's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/MS>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with no room for growth.	0	3	0
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows only public school conversions.	0	1	0
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	1	3	3
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter school staff to be employees of the local school district, but exempts the staff from state education employment laws.	1	3	3
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	3	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

# MISSOURI

#18 (OUT OF 42)

113 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1998

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 41

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 23,000

Missouri did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 113 points. However, its ranking dropped from #13 to #18 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Missouri's law fares well on the operational autonomy provided to charter schools. However, Missouri's law only allows charter schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts. Therefore, the biggest area for improvement is to expand charter schools statewide. Other potential areas for improvement include beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decision-making processes and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Missouri's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/MO>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	1	3	3
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113</b>

# NEVADA

#20 (OUT OF 42)

111 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1997

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 31

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 17,000

In 2011, Nevada enacted legislation to strengthen its authorizing environment. As a result, its scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #3, its score increased from three points to six points because of the creation of a new statewide authorizer.
- For Component #4, its score increased from three points to six points because of strengthened authorizer accountability requirements.

- For Component #5, its score increased from four points to eight points because of improved authorizer funding provisions.
- For Component #8, its score increased from eight points to 12 points because of enhanced oversight and monitoring requirements.

Nevada's overall score increased from 97 points to 111 points and its ranking increased from #23 to #20.

Potential areas for improvement include increasing operational autonomy and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Nevada's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/NV>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state law does not place any caps on charter school growth, but some school districts have enacted a moratorium on new charter schools	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools, but not public school conversions.	3	1	3
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants but the authorizing activities of such entities is limited.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	4	2	8
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	3	3	9
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows a charter school to submit a written request to the state superintendent of public instruction for a waiver from providing the days of instruction required by state law and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incidence, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	3	0
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

#19 (OUT OF 42)

112 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 11

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 1,200

In 2011, New Hampshire enacted legislation that removed the cap on the number of charter schools that can be approved by the state board of education and eliminated the pilot nature of the state's charter school program. As a result, its score on

Component #1 increased from three points to nine points. Its overall score increased from 106 points to 112 points. However, its ranking fell from #16 to #19 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

New Hampshire's law fares well on the operational autonomy provided to charter schools. Potential areas for improvement include providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of New Hampshire's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/NH>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>

# NEW JERSEY

#31 (OUT OF 42)

92 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 80

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 26,000

New Jersey did not pass any major charter-specific legislation in 2011. Its score decreased from 96 points to 92 points and its ranking dropped from #26 to #31. Its score on Component #20 decreased from eight points to four points because of further clarification from the state about its policies for this component.

New Jersey's law is cap-free, is open to start-ups, conversions, and virtual schools, and fares well on its requirements for charter school oversight. Potential areas for improvement include expanding authorizer options for applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, beefing up its requirements for performance-based contracts, increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of New Jersey's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/NJ>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	0	4	0
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incidence, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>

# NEW MEXICO

#4 (OUT OF 42)

135 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1993

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 84

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 17,000

In 2011, New Mexico made substantial improvements to its charter school law. As a result, its overall score increased from 104 points to 135 points and its ranking shot up from #20 to #4.

Because of legislation that was enacted this year in New Mexico, scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #4, its score increased from zero points to six points because of strengthened authorizer accountability requirements.
- For Component #5, its score increased from four points to six points because of improved authorizer funding provisions.
- For Component #7, its score increased from four points to 12 points because of strengthened performance-based charter contract requirements.

- For Component #8, its score increased from four points to 16 points because of enhanced oversight and monitoring requirements.
- For Component #9, its score increased from eight points to 12 points because of improved renewal, non-renewal, and revocation requirements.
- For Component #10, its score increased from zero points to two points because of new guidelines governing relationships between charter schools and educational service providers.

For Component #19, its score decreased from nine points to six points because of further clarification from the state about its policies for this component.

Potential areas for improvement include beefing up statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, increasing operational autonomy, and enacting statutory guidelines to govern multi-school charter contracts and/or multi-charter contract boards.

Below is a general summary of New Mexico's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/NM>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools, but not public school conversions.	3	1	3
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	3	2	6
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>

# NEW YORK

#8 (OUT OF 42)

129 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1998

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 176

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 51,000

New York did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 129 points. However, its ranking dropped from #5 to #8 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

However, some charter school advocates in New York are concerned that an expanding regulatory environment is starting to constrain charter

school autonomy. For example, the state education department has mandated that all charter schools be subject to the teacher evaluation mandates within the state's Race to the Top grant program, even if schools choose not to accept Race to the Top funds. Continued movement down this path would likely negatively impact New York's scores and ranking in the future.

New York ranks relatively high on the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine). One potential area for improvement is ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of New York's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/NY>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services, but is not explicit about which entity is the LEA responsible for providing special education services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129</b>

# NORTH CAROLINA

#33 (OUT OF 42)

91 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 99

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 45,000

In 2011, North Carolina enacted legislation that removed its cap on charter school growth and required the state board of education to submit a report about charter schools to the state legislature. As a result, its score on Component #1 increased from zero points to 12 points and its score on Component #4 increased from zero points to three points. Its overall score increased from 76 points to

91 points. However, its ranking dropped from #32 to #33 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

North Carolina's law is open to new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools and fares well on charter school autonomy for start-up charters. However, the law needs significant work, such as by beefing up its requirements for charter application, review, and decision-making processes, charter school oversight, and renewal, non-renewal, and revocation processes and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of North Carolina's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/NC>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing school district personnel policies, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	0	2	0
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>

# OHIO

#28 (OUT OF 42)

101 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1997

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 360

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 126,000

In 2011, Ohio enacted legislation that impacted charter schools in several ways, most notably by partially lifting the state's caps on charter school growth and providing charter schools better access to empty school district buildings. As a result, its score on Component #1 increased from three points to six points and its score on Component

#19 increased from zero points to three points. Its overall score increased from 95 points to 101 points. However, its ranking dropped from #27 to #28 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

Potential areas of improvement include removing all caps on charter school growth, beefing up its requirements for charter application, review, and decision-making processes and performance-based contracting, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Ohio's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/OH>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	3	3	9
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	3	4	12

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards for some schools, but not others.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified with some limited exceptions.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on the responsibility for providing services, but not on funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>

# OKLAHOMA

#27 (OUT OF 42)

102 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1999

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 20

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 7,400

Oklahoma did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 102 points. However, its ranking dropped from #22 to #27 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Oklahoma is a leader in providing operational autonomy to its charter schools. The biggest area for improvement is to expand charter schools statewide (it currently only allows charters in 21 of the state's 537 districts). Other potential areas for improvement include beefing up the requirements for charter application, review, and decision-making processes and charter school oversight and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Oklahoma's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/OK>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	0	2	0
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.	4	3	12
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows multi-school charter contracts but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services, but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>

# OREGON

#21 (OUT OF 42)

109 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1999

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 116

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 23,000

In 2011, Oregon enacted legislation that provided that school districts in which charter school students reside are eligible to receive high-cost disabilities grants for those students from the state. As a result, its score on Component #17 increased from four points to eight points. Its overall score increased from 105 points to 109 points. However,

its ranking dropped from #17 to #21 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

Oregon's law is cap-free and is relatively strong on charter autonomy. However, the law needs significant work on ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. The law also needs a general fine-tuning in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), while also providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants.

Below is a general summary of Oregon's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/OR>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>

# PENNSYLVANIA

#16 (OUT OF 42)

115 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1997

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 164

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 102,000

Pennsylvania did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 115 points. However, its ranking dropped from #12 to #16 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

In general, Pennsylvania law provides an environment that's cap-free, open to new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools, and supportive of autonomy. Pennsylvania's law needs improvement in several areas, including prohibiting district-mandated restrictions on growth, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing authorizer funding, expanding authorizer options, allowing multi-school charter contracts or multi-contract governing boards, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Pennsylvania's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/PA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state law does not place any caps on charter school growth, but some school districts have enacted restrictions on growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	3	4	12
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	2	2	4
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law prohibits these arrangements.	0	1	0
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	4	2	8
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems, unless at the time of application, it has a retirement program which covers the employees or the employee is currently enrolled in another retirement program.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>

# RHODE ISLAND

#26 (OUT OF 42)

103 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 18

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 4,500

In 2011, Rhode Island overhauled their charter school regulations. As a result, its overall score increased from 64 points to 103 points – the largest jump for any state on record. Its ranking moved up from #37 to #26.

Because of regulations that were adopted this year in Rhode Island, scores increased in the following areas:

- For Component #7, its score increased from zero points to 12 points because of strengthened performance-based charter contract requirements.
- For Component #8, its score increased from four points to 16 points because of enhanced oversight and monitoring requirements.
- For Component #9, its score increased from four

points to eight points because of improved renewal, non-renewal, and revocation requirements.

- For Component #10, it increased from two points to six points because of new guidelines governing relationships between charter schools and educational service providers.
- For Component #12, it increased from one point to two points because of new regulations clarifying enrollment preferences.
- For Component #18, it increased from three points to nine points because of new requirements for more equitable operational funding.

Rhode Island's law is still in need of significant improvement, most notably by removing the remaining caps on charter school growth, providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, and ensuring equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Rhode Island's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/RI>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	3	4	12
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	4	4	16
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).	3	3	9
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	3	3	9
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	3	2	6
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>

# SOUTH CAROLINA

#25 (OUT OF 42)

104 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1996

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 47

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 20,000

South Carolina did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 104 points. However, its ranking dropped from #19 to #25 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

South Carolina law provides an environment that's cap-free, open to new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools, and supportive of autonomy, particularly for start-ups. However, the law needs improvement in ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. It also needs to be beefed up in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine).

Below is a general summary of South Carolina's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/SC>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two viable authorizing options for each applicant, but requires applicants to get preliminary approval from a state charter school advisory committee.	3	3	9
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	1	2	2
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	2	1	2
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing school district personnel policies, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides charter student access to extra-curricular activities at non-charter public schools.	2	1	2
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	3	2	6
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

# TENNESSEE

#30 (OUT OF 42)

97 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 2002

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 40

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 9,500

In 2011, Tennessee enacted legislation that removed its caps on charter school growth and eliminated its restrictions on the types of students that are eligible to enroll in charter schools. As a result, its score on Component #1 increased from six points to 12 points and its score on Component #12 increased

from two points to three points. Its overall score increased from 90 points to 97 points. However, its ranking slipped from #29 to #30 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

Tennessee's law needs improvement in several areas, including allowing virtual charter schools, creating additional authorizing options, ensuring authorizer accountability, beefing up the requirements for performance-based contracts and charter school oversight, and ensuring equitable operational funding.

Below is a general summary of Tennessee's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/TN>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.	1	3	3
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of district collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>

# TEXAS

#23 (OUT OF 42)

105 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 607

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 190,000

In 2011, Texas enacted legislation that allows state-authorized charter schools that have an investment grade rating and meet certain financial criteria to apply to have their bonds guaranteed by the Permanent School Fund. As a result, its score on Component #19 increased from three points to six points and its overall score increased from 102 points to

105 points. However, the state's ranking fell from #21 to #23 because it was surpassed by states that made more substantial changes to their charter laws.

Potential areas for improvement include removing all remaining restrictions on charter school growth, ensuring equitable operational funding, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities. Other areas include ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, and providing a general fine-tuning in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine).

Below is a general summary of Texas's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/TX>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is considerable authorizing activity.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	3	2	6
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards for some schools, but not others.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	For state-authorized charters, the state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified. For district-authorized charters, the state law provides automatic exemptions from many state laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified, but it does not provides automatic exemptions from many district laws and regulations.	3	3	9
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law allows an independent public charter school board to oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services, but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>

# UTAH

#12 (OUT OF 42)

121 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1998

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 81

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 45,000

Utah did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 121 points. However, its ranking dropped from #10 to

#12 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Potential areas for improvement include removing restrictions on charter school growth, ensuring authorizing accountability, beefing up its requirements for performance-based charter contracts, enacting statutory guidelines for relationships between charter schools and educational service providers, and providing more operational autonomy to charter schools.

Below is a general summary of Utah's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/UT>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	2	3	6
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two viable authorizing options for each applicant.	4	3	12
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	3	4	12
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	4	3	12
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	3	1	3
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.	4	1	4
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	3	1	3
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services, but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	2	3	6
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	2	3	6
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.	4	2	8
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>

# VIRGINIA

#37 (OUT OF 42)

67 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1998

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 4

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 360

Virginia did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 67 points. However, its ranking dropped from #35 to #37 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Virginia's law is cap-free. Aside from an absence of formal restrictions on growth, Virginia's law needs improvement across the board, most notably by providing additional authorizing options for charter applicants, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Virginia's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/VA>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.	2	1	2
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	2	2	4
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing school district personnel policies, but not others.	0	3	0
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>

# WISCONSIN

#36 (OUT OF 42)

69 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1993

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN

2011-12: 225

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STU-

DENTS IN 2011-12: 41,000

Wisconsin did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 69 points. However, its ranking dropped from #34 to #36 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Wisconsin law needs a major overhaul in several areas, including providing additional authorizing options, ensuring authorizer accountability, providing adequate authorizer funding, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality control components (components six through nine), increasing operational autonomy, and ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Wisconsin's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.public-charters.org/charterlaws/state/WI>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state has a cap with room for ample growth.	3	3	9
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.	2	3	6
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	0	3	0
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	1	4	4
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	2	4	8
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	1	4	4

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	1	3	3
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions.	2	3	6
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.	2	3	6
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	1	2	2
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	1	3	3
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools, but denies access to these systems for other schools.	1	2	2
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>

# WYOMING

#34 (OUT OF 42)

80 points (OUT OF 208)

YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL LAW WAS ENACTED: 1995

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2011-12: 4

ESTIMATED # OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2011-12: 328

Wyoming did not pass any legislation in 2011 impacting its score and ranking. Its score stayed at 80 points. However, its ranking dropped from #31 to #34 because it was surpassed by states that made substantial changes to their charter laws.

Although the state has no charter cap, there is little chartering activity due to the lack of a multiple-authorizer environment (only local school boards may charter). Wyoming's law needs improvement in virtually all areas, including the four quality control components of the model law (components six through nine), operational autonomy, operational funding, and capital funding and facilities.

Below is a general summary of Wyoming's law. For a detailed profile of it, go to <http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws/state/WY>.

	Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
1	No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.	4	1	4
3	Multiple Authorizers Available	The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.	0	3	0
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	1	3	3
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes	The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.	2	4	8
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law		Current Component Description	Rating	Weight	Total Score
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards	The state law essentially includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.	2	3	6
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.	1	1	1
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.	4	3	12
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	1	1
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law is clear on responsibility for providing services, but not funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	2	2	4
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.	0	3	0
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	1	3	3
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>

# APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

In this Appendix, we describe in more detail the methodology that we used for the state analyses at the heart of the rankings report. It is divided into the following subsections: Weights and Rubric.

## Weights

For our analysis of each state's charter school law against NAPCS's model law, we first weighted each of the model law's 20 essential components with a weight from "1" to "4." We gave a weight of "4" to only four of the 20 components, a group that we refer to as the quality control components of the model law:

- Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes
- Performance-Based Charter Contracts
- Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes
- Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions

Not to say that operational autonomy, operational funding equity, and equitable access to capital funding and facilities don't have a huge impact on charter quality. They clearly do. However, we chose the four components bulleted above because we feel that they can have the greatest impact on the quality of a state's charter school sector. State charter laws have too often given short shrift to ensuring that authorizers are appropriately exercising their quality control responsibilities, and we want to push states to enact responsible policies in these areas.

Obviously, getting the implementation of such provisions right in practice is just as important as getting them right in policy. And, some authorizers have established serious quality control practices in spite of their state law's silence on these provisions. However, from our perspective, it is critical that state laws accelerate the movement of more authorizers toward the best-in-class practices exhibited by the nation's best ones. Aligning state laws with the model law's quality control provisions will move us in that direction.

Also, it is important to note that these quality controls are focused on outputs instead of inputs. When authorizers are exercising their quality

control responsibilities, they should be primarily focused on outputs, primarily student achievement. This approach is a sharp contrast to the traditional public school system's mode of operations, which is usually focused on controlling for inputs.

We gave a weight of "3" to the following components of the model law:

- No Caps
- Multiple Authorizers Available
- Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System
- Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools, with Independent Public Charter School Boards
- Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations
- Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding
- Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities

We gave a weight of "2" to the following components of the model law:

- Adequate Authorizer Funding
- Educational Service Providers Allowed
- Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities
- Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems

We gave a weight of "1" to the following components of the model law:

- A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed
- Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures
- Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed
- Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access

## Rubric

After weighting each of the 20 components, we rated each of the components for each state from a scale of "0" to "4." We then multiplied the rating and the weight to get a score for each component in each state. We then added up the scores for each of the 20 components and came up with an overall score for each state. The highest score possible was 208.

The table below shows how we defined the ratings “0” to “4” for each component. For those cells where it reads “Not Applicable,” we did not

give that particular numeric rating for that component in any state.

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>1) No Caps, whereby:</p> <p>1A. No limits are placed on the number of public charter schools or students (and no geographic limits).</p> <p>1B. If caps exist, adequate room for growth.</p>	The state has a cap with no room for growth.	The state has a cap with room for limited growth.	The state has a cap with room for adequate growth.	<p>The state has a cap with room for ample growth.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state does not have a cap, but allows districts to restrict growth.</p>	The state does not have a cap.
<p>2) A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed, including:</p> <p>2A. New start-ups.</p> <p>2B. Public school conversions.</p> <p>2C. Virtual schools.</p>	The state allows only public school conversions.	Not Applicable	<p>The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions, but not virtual schools.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows only new start-ups.</p>	The state allows new start-ups and virtual schools, but not public school conversions.	The state allows new start-ups, public school conversions, and virtual schools.

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>3) Multiple Authorizers Available, including:</p> <p>3A. Two viable authorizing options for each applicant with direct application allowed to each authorizing option.</p>	<p>The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is no or almost no authorizing activity.</p>	<p>The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is some authorizing activity.</p>	<p>The state has only a single viable authorizer option available, and there is considerable authorizing activity.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants in some but not all situations.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for applicants but the authorizing activities of such entities is limited.</p>	<p>The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for each applicant, but requires applicants to get preliminary approval from a state charter school advisory committee.</p>	<p>The state allows two or more viable authorizing options for each applicant.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>4) Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required, including:</p> <p>4A. At least a registration process for local school boards to affirm their interest in chartering to the state.</p> <p>4B. Application process for other eligible authorizing entities.</p> <p>4C. Authorizer submission of annual report, which summarizes the agency's authorizing activities as well as the performance of its school portfolio.</p> <p>4D. A regular review process by authorizer oversight body.</p> <p>4E. Authorizer oversight body with authority to sanction authorizers, including removal of authorizer right to approve schools.</p> <p>4F. Periodic formal evaluation of overall state charter school program and outcomes.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.</p>
<p>5) Adequate Authorizer Funding, including:</p> <p>5A. Adequate funding from authorizing fees (or other sources).</p> <p>5B. Guaranteed funding from authorizing fees (or from sources not subject to annual legislative appropriations).</p> <p>5C. Requirement to publicly report detailed authorizer expenditures.</p> <p>5D. Separate contract for any services purchased from an authorizer by a school.</p> <p>5E. Prohibition on authorizers requiring schools to purchase services from them.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>6) Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decision-making Processes, including:</p> <p>6A. Application elements for all schools.</p> <p>6B. Additional application elements specific to conversion schools.</p> <p>6C. Additional application elements specific to virtual schools.</p> <p>6D. Additional application elements specific when using educational service providers.</p> <p>6E. Additional application elements specific to replications.</p> <p>6F. Authorizer-issued request for proposals (including application requirements and approval criteria).</p> <p>6G. Thorough evaluation of each application including an in-person interview and a public meeting.</p> <p>6H. All charter approval or denial decisions made in a public meeting, with authorizers stating reasons for denials in writing.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decision-making processes.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>7) Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required, with such contracts:</p> <p>7A. Being created as a separate document from the application and executed by the governing board of the charter school and the authorizer.</p> <p>7B. Defining the roles, powers, and responsibilities for the school and its authorizer.</p> <p>7C. Defining academic and operational performance expectations by which the school will be judged, based on a performance framework that includes measures and metrics for, at a minimum, student academic proficiency and growth, achievement gaps, attendance, recurrent enrollment, postsecondary readiness (high schools), financial performance, and board stewardship (including compliance).</p> <p>7D. Providing an initial term of five operating years (or a longer term with periodic high-stakes reviews).</p> <p>7E. Including requirements addressing the unique environments of virtual schools, if applicable.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>8) Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes, including:</p> <p>8A. The collection and analysis of student outcome data at least annually by authorizers (consistent with performance framework outlined in the contract).</p> <p>8B. Financial accountability for charter schools (e.g., Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, independent annual audit reported to authorizer).</p> <p>8C. Authorizer authority to conduct or require oversight activities.</p> <p>8D. Annual school performance reports produced and made public by each authorizer.</p> <p>8E. Authorizer notification to their schools of perceived problems, with opportunities to remedy such problems.</p> <p>8F. Authorizer authority to take appropriate corrective actions or exercise sanctions short of revocation.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>9) Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions, including:</p> <p>9A. Authorizer must issue school performance renewal reports to schools whose charter will expire the following year.</p> <p>9B. Schools seeking renewal must apply for it.</p> <p>9C. Authorizers must issue renewal application guidance that provides an opportunity for schools to augment their performance record and discuss improvements and future plans.</p> <p>9D. Clear criteria for renewal and nonrenewal/revocation.</p> <p>9E. Authorizers must ground renewal decisions based on evidence regarding the school's performance over the term of the charter contract (in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter contract).</p> <p>9F. Authorizer authority to vary length of charter renewal contract terms based on performance or other issues.</p> <p>9G. Authorizers must provide charter schools with timely notification of potential revocation or non-renewal (including reasons) and reasonable time to respond.</p> <p>9H. Authorizers must provide charter schools with due process for nonrenewal and revocation decisions (e.g., public hearing, submission of evidence).</p> <p>9I. All charter renewal, non-renewal, and revocation decisions made in a public meeting, with authorizers stating reasons for non-renewals and revocations in writing.</p> <p>9J. Authorizers must have school closure protocols to ensure timely parent notification, orderly student and record transitions, and property and asset disposition.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>10) Educational Service Providers (ESPs) Allowed, including:</p> <p>10A. All types of educational service providers (both for-profit and non-profit) explicitly allowed to operate all or parts of schools.</p> <p>10B. The charter application requires 1) performance data for all current and past schools operated by the ESP, including documentation of academic achievement and (if applicable) school management success; and 2) explanation and evidence of the ESP's capacity for successful growth while maintaining quality in existing schools.</p> <p>10C. A performance contract is required between the independent public charter school board and the ESP, setting forth material terms including but not limited to: performance evaluation measures; methods of contract oversight and enforcement by the charter school board; compensation structure and all fees to be paid to the ESP; and conditions for contract renewal and termination.</p> <p>10D. The material terms of the ESP performance contract must be approved by the authorizer prior to charter approval.</p> <p>10E. School governing boards operating as entities completely independent of any educational service provider (e.g., must retain independent oversight authority of their charter schools, and cannot give away their authority via contract).</p> <p>10F. Existing and potential conflicts of interest between the two entities are required to be disclosed and explained in the charter application.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>11) Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards, including:</p> <p>11A. Fiscally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to receive and disburse funds, incur debt, and pledge, assign or encumber assets as collateral).</p> <p>11B. Legally autonomous schools (e.g., schools have clear statutory authority to enter into contracts and leases, sue and be sued in their own names, and acquire real property).</p> <p>11C. School governing boards created specifically to govern their charter schools.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent public charter school boards.</p>
<p>12) Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Lottery Procedures, including:</p> <p>12A. Open enrollment to any student in the state.</p> <p>12B. Lottery requirements.</p> <p>12C. Required enrollment preferences for previously enrolled students within conversions, prior year students within chartered schools, siblings of enrolled students enrolled at a charter school.</p> <p>12D. Optional enrollment preference for children of a school's founders, governing board members, and full-time employees, not exceeding 10% of the school's total student population.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's requirements for student recruitment, enrollment, and lottery procedures.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>13) Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations, including:</p> <p>13A. Exemptions from all laws, except those covering health, safety, civil rights, student accountability, employee criminal history checks, open meetings, freedom of information, and generally accepted accounting principles.</p> <p>13B. Exemption from state teacher certification requirements.</p>	<p>The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from state and district laws and regulations, does not allow schools to apply for exemptions, and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.</p>	<p>The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law does not provide automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.</p>	<p>There were six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in this cell.<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified.</p>	<p>The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.</p>

<sup>3</sup> The six variations for how state laws handled 13A and 13B that were included in "2" for 13 are: The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified. OR The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified for some charters and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified for other charters. OR The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires some of a school's teachers to be certified. OR The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws, including from certification requirements. OR The state law provides automatic exemptions from many state and district laws and regulations for some schools but not others and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified but provides exceptions. OR The state law provides some flexibility from state and district laws and regulations for some schools but less for others and does not require any of a school's teachers to be certified.

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>14) Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption, whereby:</p> <p>14A. Charter schools authorized by non-local board authorizers are exempt from participation in any outside collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>14B. Charter schools authorized by local boards are exempt from participation in any district collective bargaining agreements.</p>	<p>The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, with no opportunity for exemptions.</p>	<p>The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law requires all charter school staff to be employees of the local school district, but exempts the staff from state education employment laws.</p>	<p>The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others.</p>	<p>The state law exempts some schools from existing collective bargaining agreements, but not others (but allows those not exempted to apply for exemptions).</p>	<p>The state law does not require any charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements.</p>
<p>15) Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed, whereby an independent public charter school board may:</p> <p>15A. Oversee multiple schools linked under a single contract with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.</p> <p>15B. Hold multiple charter contracts with independent fiscal and academic accountability for each school.</p>	<p>The state law prohibits these arrangements.</p>	<p>The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements but does not require each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The state law explicitly allows these arrangements for some schools but not others.</p>	<p>The state law allows either of these arrangements, but only requires schools authorized by some entities to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>The state law explicitly allows either of these arrangements and requires each school to be independently accountable for fiscal and academic performance.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>16) Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access, whereby:</p> <p>16A. Laws or regulations explicitly state that charter school students and employees are eligible to participate in all interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, and recognition programs available to non-charter public school students and employees.</p> <p>16B. Laws or regulations explicitly allow charter school students in schools not providing extra-curricular and interscholastic activities to have access to those activities at non-charter public schools for a fee by a mutual agreement.</p>	The state law prohibits charter eligibility and access.	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	The state law provides either eligibility or access, but not both.	The state law provides both eligibility and access to students, but not employees.	The state law provides both eligibility and access.
<p>17) Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities, including:</p> <p>17A. Clarity regarding which entity is the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing special education services.</p> <p>17B. Clarity regarding funding for low-incident, high-cost services for charter schools (in the same amount and/or in a manner similar to other LEAs).</p>	The state law is silent about special education responsibilities and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	The state law addresses special education, but is unclear about responsibility for providing services and funding for low-incident, high-cost services.	The state law is clear on either responsibility for providing services OR funding for low-incident, high-cost services, but not both.	Not Applicable	The state law clearly addresses responsibility for providing services and ensures state funding for low-incident, high-cost services.

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>18) Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding, including:</p> <p>18A. Equitable operational funding statutorily driven.</p> <p>18B. Equal access to all applicable categorical federal and state funding, and clear guidance on the pass-through of such funds.</p> <p>18C. Funding for transportation similar to school districts.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding.</p>
<p>19) Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities, including:</p> <p>19A. A per-pupil facilities allowance which annually reflects actual average district capital costs.</p> <p>19B. A state grant program for charter school facilities.</p> <p>19C. A state loan program for charter school facilities.</p> <p>19D. Equal access to tax-exempt bonding authorities or allow charter schools to have their own bonding authority.</p> <p>19E. A mechanism to provide credit enhancement for public charter school facilities.</p> <p>19F. Equal access to existing state facilities programs available to non-charter public schools.</p> <p>19G. Right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market value a closed, unused, or underused public school facility or property.</p> <p>19H. Prohibition of facility-related requirements stricter than those applied to traditional public schools.</p>	<p>The state law includes none of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.</p>	<p>The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.</p>	<p>The state law includes some of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.</p>	<p>The state law includes many of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.</p>	<p>The state law includes all of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.</p>

Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law	0	1	2	3	4
<p>20) Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems, whereby:</p> <p>20A. Charter schools have access to relevant state retirement systems available to other public schools.</p> <p>20B. Charter schools have the option to participate (i.e., not required).</p>	The state law does not provide access to the relevant employee retirement systems.	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems for some schools, but denies access to these systems for other schools.	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	The state law provides some charter schools with the option to participate in the relevant state employee retirement systems, but not others.	The state law provides access to relevant employee retirement systems, but does not require participation.

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The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement for all students by fostering a strong charter sector. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement.