



The Health of the Public  
Charter School Movement:  
A State-By-State Analysis

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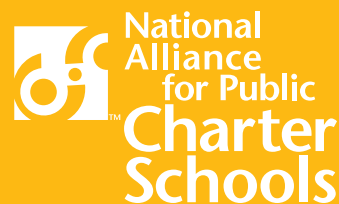
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## Acknowledgments

Todd Ziebarth, senior vice president for state advocacy and support at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, and Louann Bierlein Palmer, professor of educational leadership and policy at Western Michigan University (WMU), wrote this report. Extensive data compilation was provided by Susan Aud, senior director of research and evaluation at the National Alliance; Wentana Gebru, research analyst at the National Alliance; and Anna Nicotera, former senior director of research and evaluation at the National Alliance. Data extraction to create individual state profiles was provided by Kathy Wilson, doctoral student in evaluation, measurement, and research at WMU.

Ziebarth and Bierlein Palmer compiled and shared data and other information with individuals in each of the 43 jurisdictions with public charter school laws, including those working at state departments of education, state public charter school associations and resource centers, and other organizations. The National Alliance acknowledges and thanks such individuals for their invaluable feedback. Any errors and omissions in this report are the responsibility of the authors, not the individuals from the states.



# Introduction

*Twenty-three years after Minnesota enacted the nation's first public charter school law, and 22 years after the first public charter school opened in St. Paul, Minn., more than 6,400 public charter schools are serving more than 2.5 million students. Research indicates that many of these public charter schools are dramatically outperforming their traditional public school counterparts.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it is no surprise that the public charter school movement has become an integral part of the nation's public education system. At the same time, much discussion—both inside and outside of the movement—remains about what is working with public charter schools, what needs improvement, and how to best leverage public charter schools' successes to accelerate change in the larger public education system.*

Because public charter schools are creatures of state law, the discussion about the successes and challenges within the movement is tightly connected to the strengths and weaknesses of the various public charter school laws across the country. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools has been at the center of those discussions with our model public charter school law and our annual report that ranks each state's public charter school law against that model.<sup>2</sup>

Since we released our first rankings of state public charter school laws against our model law in 2010, we have been asked about the relationship between a state's ranking in our report and the performance of that state's public charter schools. This report represents the first comprehensive attempt to address that connection.

We provide data about the health of the public charter school movement along 11 indicators of growth, innovation, and quality. We focused on the 26 states that met two criteria: Their charter school movement served at least one percent of their public schools students in 2013-14 and they participated in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' 2013 *National Charter School Study*.<sup>3</sup> We ranked the states from 1 to 26, using a rubric developed with significant input from a wide variety of public charter school stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, *Public Charter School Success: A Summary of the Current Research on Public Charters' Effectiveness at Improving Student Achievement*, Washington, D.C.: Author, April 2013.

<sup>2</sup> National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, *A New Model Law For Supporting The Growth Of High-Quality Public Charter Schools*, Washington, D.C.: Author, June 2009; National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, *Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter School Laws, Fifth Edition*, Washington, D.C.: Author, January 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Center for Research on Education Outcomes, *National Charter School Study 2013*, Stanford, CA: Author, 2013.

# Introduction

This report not only shares what we found for each state but also compares our existing law rankings with our new health of the movement rankings. For the most part, those states with higher-ranked public charter school laws also fared well in our health of the movement rankings. However, a small number of states with higher-ranked public charter school laws did not fare as well in our health of the movement rankings. We speculate that this disconnect is largely due to the time lag between the policy changes that have happened in these states and the impact of those changes on authorizers and schools (all of these states have made major policy improvements to address shortcomings).

Also, a small number of states had lower-ranked public charter school laws but fared well in our health of the movement rankings. These states have been able to achieve these results in spite of weak laws largely through a combination of a small number of authorizers implementing solid practices that are not required by their states' public charter school laws and a select number of high-performing public charter schools smartly replicating and expanding.

Overall, there is much to celebrate about the health of the public charter school movement. However, continued efforts to strengthen the movement are essential, even in those places where the current movement is relatively healthy. We hope this report aids public charter school supporters across the country as they engage in this critical work.

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# Methodological Overview

To assess the health of the public charter school movement across the country, we developed a list of indicators for which we collected data. These indicators fall into the broad categories of growth, innovation, and quality. Table 1 lists the indicators by category.

**Table 1: Indicators Used to Assess the Health of the Public Charter School Movement**

<b>Growth</b>
1. Public school share
2. Public school student share
3. Students by race and ethnicity
4. Students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English learner status)
5. Schools by geographic distribution
6. Communities with more than 10 percent of students in public charter schools
7. New public charter schools opened over the past five years
8. Public charter schools closed over the past five years
<b>Innovation</b>
9. Public charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices (i.e., extended day, extended year, year-round calendar, independent study, school-to-work, and higher education courses)
<b>Quality</b>
10. Additional days of learning in reading
11. Additional days of learning in math

In addition to gathering the data for each of the above indicators, we created a rubric to use in our assessment of these data for each state. Perhaps most notably, this effort involved creating value statements and weights for each indicator. These value statements and weights were developed with significant input from a wide variety of public charter school stakeholders. The indicators are weighted from 1 to 4, with 1 being the lowest weight and 4 being the highest weight. Table 2 provides an overview of the value statements and weights for each indicator.

# Methodological Overview

**Table 2: Value Statements and Weights**

Indicator	Value Statement	Weight
<b>1. Public school share</b>	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the percentage, the better.	3
<b>2. Public school student share</b>	To ensure that a wide variety of student needs are being met, the higher the percentage, the better.	3
<b>3. Students by race and ethnicity</b>	It is preferable for public charter schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., racial minorities) than traditional public schools.	2
<b>4. Students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English learner status)</b>	It is preferable for public charter schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch students, special education students, and English learner students) than traditional public schools.	2
<b>5. Schools by geographic distribution</b>	It is preferable for public charter schools to serve a slightly higher percentage of historically underserved students (i.e., nonsuburban) than traditional public schools.	2
<b>6. Communities with more than 10 percent of students in public charter schools</b>	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the number of communities, the better.	1
<b>7. New public charter schools opened over the past five years</b>	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the growth rate, the better.	3
<b>8. Public charter schools closed over the past five years</b>	It is preferable to have a small and consistent percentage of schools close, but the percentage should not be too high as such a number reveals inadequate approval and oversight processes.	3
<b>9. Public charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices (i.e., extended day, extended year, year-round calendar, independent study, school-to-work, and higher education courses)</b>	To ensure that a wide variety of options are available, the higher the percentage, the better.	2
<b>10. Additional days of learning in reading</b>	It is preferable for public charter schools to have outcomes greater than traditional public schools.	4
<b>11. Additional days of learning in math</b>	It is preferable for public charter schools to have outcomes greater than traditional public schools.	4

After weighting each indicator, we rated each of them on a scale of 0 to 4 for 26 of the 43 jurisdictions with public charter school laws (see Appendix A for more details). These 26 states were selected because their movements served at least 1 percent of the state’s public school students in 2013–14 and they participated in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes’ (CREDO) 2013 *National Charter School Study*.

We acknowledge that the indicators, value statements, weights, and ratings can be (and, in fact, were and will continue to be) heavily debated. We wanted to take a moment to discuss three issues in particular.



# Methodological Overview

## **First, innovation is one of the foundational values of the public charter school movement.**

However, one can define “innovation” in any number of ways. Furthermore, however “innovation” is defined, finding data about its existence in public charter schools that are comparable across states is challenging. While all options were imperfect, we decided to use data from a survey of public charter schools that we completed in spring 2012 that asked school leaders to respond to questions on a variety of issues, including educational focus and instructional delivery at their schools.<sup>4</sup> Moving forward, we plan to collect a more comprehensive set of data about the types of public charter schools that are open and the innovations they are implementing and to include these data in future health of the movement reports.

## **Second, the public charter school bargain is focused on giving schools more flexibility to innovate in exchange for a higher level of accountability.**

As part of that bargain, schools can be closed if they do not meet their academic, financial, and operational goals. However, defining exactly what percentage of public charter schools should close is challenging. We landed on the following value statement: It is preferable to have a small and consistent percentage of schools close, but the percentage should not be too high as such a number reveals inadequate approval and oversight processes. We recognize that the closure rates may be relatively low in states that have done a great job of authorizing schools on the front end, though. Conversely, while some states might have a small and consistent percentage of schools closing currently, they might still need to increase the number of schools that are closing because their authorizers were relatively freewheeling in their approval of public charter schools in the earlier years of their movements. We will continue to monitor data on this indicator and make necessary adjustments to it going forward.

## **Third, while we value a strong balance of growth, innovation, and quality and have attempted to reflect such a balance in our value statements and weights, we gave the highest weights to the two quality metrics because the ultimate goal of the public charter school movement is improved student outcomes.**

We realize that “quality” can be defined in a wide variety of ways. In fact, when we began our data-gathering efforts, we set out to gather data on almost a dozen indicators related to quality, including postsecondary activity rates, graduation rates, and attendance rates. However, we were able to include only two of them in this year’s report because of the significant data collection challenges that we encountered. These two data points, from CREDO’s 2013 *National Charter Schools Study*, are the only source of student outcome data across a large number of states that allows a meaningful and fair comparison of similar students within public charter and traditional public schools. It is important to note that we are doubling down on our data collection efforts and plan to increase the number of quality indicators that we use in future reports.

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<sup>4</sup> National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, *Instructional Delivery and Focus of Public Charter Schools: Results from the NAPCS National Charter School Survey, School Year 2011-12*, Washington, D.C., Author, June 2013.

# Methodological Overview

In addition to assessing states on the 11 indicators, we also felt it was important to provide data for each state on four other indicators:

- Percentage of startup public charter schools versus conversion public charter schools;
- Percentage of public charter schools that are independent, associated with a charter management organization, or associated with an educational management organization;
- Information about charter authorizers; and
- Information about virtual public charter schools and the students who attend them.

These additional data help to shed further light on the dynamics within a state's movement but are not considered in the scoring.



# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

Table 3 presents the inaugural health of the public charter school movement rankings. As a reminder, we focused on states that met two criteria: Their charter school movement served at least one percent of their public school students in 2013-14 and they participated in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' 2013 National Charter School Study.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 3: 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings<sup>6</sup>**

Ranking	State	Score (116 Possible Points)
1	D.C.	104
2	Louisiana	85
3	Michigan	84
4	New Jersey	76
5	New York	75
6	Massachusetts	73
7	Indiana	73
8	California	72
9	Tennessee	71
10	Rhode Island	70
11	Florida	70
12	Colorado	63
13	Illinois	60
14	Arizona	59

Ranking	State	Score (116 Possible Points)
15	Missouri	57
16	Minnesota	56
17	Ohio	56
18	Georgia	47
19	Texas	47
20	Arkansas	45
21	New Mexico	44
22	North Carolina	42
23	Pennsylvania	42
24	Utah	38
25	Oregon	35
26	Nevada	32

<sup>5</sup> Center for Research on Education Outcomes, *National Charter School Study 2013*, Stanford, CA: Author, 2013.

<sup>6</sup> In the case of a tie, we first looked at each state's performance for reading gains in CREDO's 2013 *National Charter Schools Study*. Whichever state had the highest performance was ranked higher. If the states had the same performance, we looked at each state's performance for math gains in CREDO's 2013 *National Charter Schools Study*. Whichever state had the highest performance was ranked higher.

# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

## The Two Ends of the Spectrum: D.C. and Louisiana versus Oregon and Nevada

At the top of the rankings is D.C.'s public charter school movement. D.C.'s movement landed at the top spot because it scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- A high percentage of D.C.'s public schools were charter schools in 2013-14 (49 percent).
- A high percentage of D.C.'s public school students were charter school students in 2013-14 (44 percent).
- D.C.'s public charter schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012-13 (13 percentage points more).
- D.C.'s public charter schools served a higher percentage of free- and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012-13 (11 percentage points more).
- Eighteen public charter schools closed between 2008-09 and 2012-13, a 4 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 29 percent of D.C.'s public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011-12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007-08 and 2010-11 (72 more days in reading and 101 more days in math).

Louisiana came in at number two because it scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Louisiana's public charter schools served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2010-11 (16 percentage points more).
- Ninety-seven percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 81 percent of traditional public schools in 2011-12.
- Seventy-one public charter schools opened in Louisiana between 2009-10 and 2013-14, a 15 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 27 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011-12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007-08 and 2010-11 (50 more days in reading and 65 more days in math).

# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

On the flip side, the states at the bottom of the list were **Oregon** (#25 out of 26) and **Nevada** (#26 out of 26). Oregon landed near the bottom because it fared relatively poorly on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter school students in 2013-14.
- The state's public charter schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (16 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools during 2012–13.
- Public charter schools in Oregon served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (32 percentage points less) during 2012–13 when compared with traditional public schools.
- There were no communities in the state with more than 10 percent of public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (22 days less in reading and 50 days less in math).

**Nevada** ranked last because it scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charter schools in 2013–14.
- Only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter school students in 2013–14.
- Public charter schools in Nevada served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students than traditional public schools during 2012–13 (16 percentage points less).
- Public charter schools in Nevada served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools during 2012–13 (30 percentage points less).
- No communities in Nevada had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charter schools during 2012–13.
- An average of 14 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (108 fewer days in reading and 137 fewer days in math).

# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

## Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings versus State Public Charter School Law Rankings

In addition to ranking the health of the public charter school movements across the country, we also wanted to know how these rankings compared to our most recent rankings of state public charter school laws from January 2014. Table 4 reveals that comparison. States that are green had high-strength laws, states that are yellow had medium-strength laws, and states that are orange had low-strength laws.

**Table 4: Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings versus State Public Charter School Law Rankings**

State	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Ranking (out of 26)	Total Points (out of 116)	State Public Charter School Law Ranking (out of 43)	Total Points (out of 228)
D.C.	1	104	10	153
Louisiana	2	85	3	167
Michigan	3	84	18	145
New Jersey	4	76	32	116
New York	5	75	7	158
Massachusetts	6	73	11	151
Indiana	7	73	2	170
California	8	72	9	156
Tennessee	9	71	35	112
Rhode Island	10	70	34	113
Florida	11	70	8	156
Colorado	12	63	5	163
Illinois	13	60	31	125
Arizona	14	59	16	147
Missouri	15	57	26	132
Minnesota	16	56	1	174
Ohio	17	56	28	129
Georgia	18	47	22	138
Texas	19	47	23	137
Arkansas	20	45	29	128
New Mexico	21	44	12	150
North Carolina	22	42	19	144
Pennsylvania	23	42	24	137
Utah	24	38	25	134
Oregon	25	35	27	129
Nevada	26	32	13	150

# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

State	Health of the Public Charter School Movement Ranking (out of 26)	Total Points (out of 116)	State Public Charter School Law Ranking (out of 43)	Total Points (out of 228)
<b>States That Did Not Receive a Health of the Public Charter School Movement Ranking</b>				
Maine	Not ranked	4	163	
Washington	Not ranked	6	162	
Mississippi	Not ranked	14	149	
South Carolina	Not ranked	15	147	
Delaware	Not ranked	17	146	
Idaho	Not ranked	20	141	
Hawaii	Not ranked	21	140	
New Hampshire	Not ranked	30	128	
Connecticut	Not ranked	33	114	
Oklahoma	Not ranked	36	112	
Wyoming	Not ranked	37	87	
Wisconsin	Not ranked	38	76	
Virginia	Not ranked	39	72	
Alaska	Not ranked	40	67	
Iowa	Not ranked	41	63	
Kansas	Not ranked	42	60	
Maryland	Not ranked	43	42	

In summary, many of the states with high-strength laws (those in green) landed within the top level of the health of the movement rankings, many of those states with medium-strength laws (those in yellow) landed within the middle of the health of the movement rankings, and many of those states with low-strength laws were not ranked.

Beyond this broad summary, here are three big takeaways from the comparison of the health of the movement rankings and the law rankings.

## First, supportive laws are necessary but not sufficient.

To quote directly from our model law:

*It is important to note that a strong charter law is a necessary but insufficient factor in driving positive results for public charter schools. Experience with public charter schools across the country has shown that there are five primary ingredients of a successful public charter school environment in a state, as demonstrated by strong student results:*

- Supportive laws and regulations (both what is on the books and how it is implemented);
- Quality authorizers;

# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

- *Effective charter support organizations, such as state charter associations and resource centers;*
- *Outstanding school leaders and teachers; and*
- *Engaged parents and community members.*

*While it is critical to get the law right, it is equally critical to ensure these additional ingredients exist in a state's charter sector.*

Some states with supportive laws (those that show up high in our annual law rankings) have implemented them well—and have therefore achieved strong results. Conversely, other states with supportive laws have implemented them inconsistently—and have therefore achieved uneven results.

## **Second, there are exceptions to the rule.**

Some states' charter movements have achieved strong results in spite of relatively weak laws (those that show up low on our law rankings list)—confirming that there are always exceptions to the rule. However, these charter movements are relatively small in size.

How do they do it? Well, it is usually a combination of authorizers implementing solid practices that are not required by their state laws (but are part of our model law) and high-performing public charter schools smartly replicating and expanding. This seems to happen in low-ranked states with only one or two authorizers, like Illinois (where public charter schools only serve 3 percent of the state's public school students), New Jersey (2 percent), Rhode Island (4 percent), and Tennessee (1 percent).

## **Third, it takes time for supportive laws to move the needle in states that have experienced challenges.**

Some states that are high in our law rankings ended up there because they passed legislation to address some of the challenges that had emerged in their public charter school movements. These bills were relatively aligned with our model law. Because of the time lag between when these policy changes happen and when they begin to affect student results, we sometimes see states that are ranked high in the law rankings but are not yet achieving consistently strong results in the health of the movement rankings. Minnesota is a good example of this point, as well as New Mexico and Nevada.

# The 2014 Health of the Public Charter School Movement Rankings

## Concluding Thoughts

Creating this inaugural *The Health of the Public Charter School Movement: A State-By-State Analysis* was far more difficult than it should have been. The data that are readily available and allow a fair comparison between public charter schools and traditional public schools remain quite limited. This reality is due in part to disparate state data collection systems and the decentralized nature of education in our country, and it complicates the ability to make sound policy decisions based on solid evidence. Policy and foundation leaders must continue to make data collection and reporting a priority.

Notwithstanding challenges with data collection, we believe that this report serves to provide a helpful snapshot of the health of the public charter school movement. It highlights those states where public charter schools, as a whole, are achieving notable gains for an increasing number of students, particularly for those historically underserved by our nation's public education system. It also shows those states where public charter schools, as a whole, still have work ahead of them to live up to their promise.

In the years ahead, we plan to add more data to this report to provide a fuller picture about the health of the public charter school movement. In the meantime, we celebrate the successes we are seeing and pledge to work with our partners to further strengthen the movement.



# Alaska

*This state was not ranked.*

Alaska enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #40 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Alaska's movement met the first condition, Alaska was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Alaska's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 27 public charter schools and 6,123 public charter school students in Alaska, constituting 6 percent

of the state's public schools and 5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.

- On average, the state's public charter schools served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (16 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (26 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Ninety-three percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12, as compared with 99 percent of traditional public schools.
- Three new public charter schools opened in Alaska between 2009–10 and 2013–14. The average annual open rate in the state was 2 percent.
- One public charter school closed in Alaska between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 1 percent.
- An average of 25 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- In 2012–13, 93 percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 7 percent were conversions.

# Alaska

- All of the public charter schools in Alaska were independently managed as of 2010–11, meaning that there were no public charter schools associated with a nonprofit charter management organization or a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. Eight of them had done so as of that year.
- There were zero virtual public charter schools in Alaska in 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Alaska has modest populations of charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to expand authorizing options, increase operational autonomy, strengthen accountability, and provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students, free and reduced-price lunch students, and nonsuburban students than traditional public schools.

# Alaska

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		27	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		6	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		6,123	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	66	50	16
		Black	2	4	-2
		Hispanic	5	6	-1
		Asian	3	6	-3
		Total minority	34	50	-16
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	14	40	-26
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	14	40	-26
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	26	18	8
		Suburb	7	1	6
		Town	37	15	22
		Rural	30	66	-36
		Total non-suburban	93	99	-6
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average Annual Open Rate		2%
	2010-11	2			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total Number	3			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate		1%
	2009-10	1			
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	1			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	33			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	0			
		Year Round Calendar	50			
		Independent Study	33			
		School-to-Work	17			
		Higher Education Courses	17			
		Average	25			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	93	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		7
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	27	100		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	8	27	3	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# Arizona

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

14

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

59

## Law Summary

Arizona enacted its public charter school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #16 out of 43. Arizona's law does not have a cap on charter growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy to its public charter schools. Over the past few years, Arizona has also taken steps to strengthen the accountability provisions in its law. However, the law still provides inequitable funding to public charter students by barring their access to significant buckets of funding.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Arizona's public charter school movement ranked #14 out of 26, scoring 59 points out of 116.

### Arizona scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Thirty percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Seventeen percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Eighteen communities had more than 10 percent of public school students in public charters in 2012–13.

- Two hundred twenty-eight public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Arizona, an 9 percent average annual open rate.
- Ninety-seven public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 4 percent average annual closure rate.

### Arizona scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (7 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in Arizona served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (11 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.<sup>7</sup>
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (22 fewer days in reading and 29 fewer days in math).

<sup>7</sup> According to research by the Arizona Charter Schools Association, the average adjusted census poverty rate for public charters is 28.5 percent, and the rate for districts is 27.6 percent. When looking at the census "high-poverty rate," the rate for public charters is 24.2 percent compared to district rate of 6.8 percent. The disconnect between these numbers and the free or reduced-price lunch data cited in this report illustrate the challenges in determining the level of poverty in public schools, particularly in public charters.

**In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Arizona:**

- Eighty-six percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 88 percent of traditional public schools.
- An average of 22 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Ninety-eight percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 2 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 56 percent of the public charter schools in Arizona were independently managed, 24 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 20 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- Arizona law allows charter applicants to apply to a local school board, the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS), the state board of education, a university, a community college district, or a group of community college districts. However, the state board of education has a self-imposed moratorium on charter authorizing, so ASBCS currently oversees all schools approved by both state boards, which means that ASBCS oversaw 87 percent of the state's public charters in 2013–14. Also, 24 local school districts oversaw

12 percent of the state's public charters, and one university oversaw 1 percent of the state's public charters that year.

- There were 22 virtual public charter schools in Arizona in 2012–13, serving 11,000 students (8 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Arizona has significant populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. While we note performance challenges in charters in this report, it is important to recognize that these data are from 2010–11. In response to these challenges, the state has implemented several efforts to strengthen accountability and improve performance. There are indications that these efforts are having a positive impact. In 2013, for example, the ASBCS forced three of its five F-rated public charter schools to close, and the other two closed on their own. In 2014, the ASBCS denied charter renewals for eight D-rated public charter schools and put six C-rated schools on probation. Also, nearly 73 percent of public charter schools are meeting their contract to improve student achievement, by either improving their letter grade or maintaining an A (A-Alt) or B (B-Alt) from 2013 to 2014, according to public school accountability data released by the Arizona Department of Education.

The Arizona Charter Schools Association (ACSA) has worked on several fronts to achieve these gains. First, ACSA worked with the state board of education to develop an A–F letter grading system for all public schools, including

charters. Second, ACSA worked with the ASBCS to develop a performance framework that uses multiple measures to hold charters authorized by the board accountable (which encompasses 87 percent of the state's public charters).

Third, ACSA created the Center for Student Achievement, which is designed to help schools create, implement, and sustain a systemic plan for curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development through implementation coaching and support, job-embedded professional development, and focusing efforts to build professional learning communities capable of data-driven instruction. Fourth, ACSA worked to get legislation enacted in 2012 to strengthen accountability for charters.

Lastly, ACSA has answered the call to increase the number of charters serving low-income students by launching New Schools For Phoenix. The goal of this organization, which was launched in 2013, is to open, replicate, or reform 25 A-rated schools enrolling 12,500 low-income students in Phoenix by 2020 and to recruit and equip highly motivated educators to fuel student success in urban education.

To build on the above efforts in support of the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state increase its investment in the authorizing capacity of the ASBCS and provide more funding and facilities support to public charter students.

# Arizona

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		605		4	3	12
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		30				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		190,672		4	3	12
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		17				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	1	2	2
		White	48	41	7			
		Black	6	5	1			
		Hispanic	36	44	-8			
		Asian	4	3	1			
		Other	6	7				
Total minority	52	59	-7					
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	34	45	-11	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	34	45	-11			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	57	43	14	2	2	4
		Suburb	14	12	2			
		Town	10	15	-5			
		Rural	19	30	-11			
		Total non-suburban	86	88	-2			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	18				4	1	4
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	48		Average Annual Open Rate	9%	3	3	9
	2010-11	21						
	2011-12	47						
	2012-13	25						
	2013-14	87						
	Total Number	228						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	14		Average Annual Closure Rate	4%	4	3	12
	2009-10	20						
	2010-11	21						
	2011-12	26						
	2012-13	16						
	Total Number	97						



Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	40	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	15			
		Year Round Calendar	10			
		Independent Study	31			
		School-to-Work	13			
		Higher Education Courses	25			
		Average	22			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-22		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	98	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		2
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	284	56		
		CMOs	125	24		
		EMOs	100	20		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	24	71	3	12
		SEAs	1	5	5	1
		ICBs	1	520	520	86
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	1	5	5	1
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			11,000	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			8	
		Number of virtual charter schools			22	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			4	

# Arkansas

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**20**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**45**

## Law Summary

Arkansas enacted its charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #29 out of 43. While the state law has a cap on charter school growth, it is structured in a way that allows ample growth. Although the state law provides adequate accountability provisions, it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Arkansas' public charter school movement ranked #20 out of 26, scoring 45 points out of 116.

### Arkansas scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- The state's public charter schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (13 percentage points more).
- Twenty-five public charter schools opened in Arkansas between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 16 percent average annual open rate.

### Arkansas scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.

- Only one community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth between 2007–08 and 2010–11 when compared with traditional public school students (22 fewer days in reading and 22 fewer days in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Arkansas:

- The state's public charter schools served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2011–12 (1 percentage point less) and a lower percentage of special education students and English learners when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (3 percentage points less and 1 percentage point less, respectively).
- Twelve public charter schools closed in Arkansas between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an 8 percent average annual closure rate.
- Ninety percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 93 percent of traditional public schools.
- An average of 23 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six

# Arkansas

innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

- Fifty-six percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 44 percent were conversions in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 73 percent of the public charter schools in Arizona were independently managed, 20 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 7 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, Arkansas allowed only its state board of education to serve as an authorizer, so 100 percent of the state's 39 schools were authorized by the state board of education that year.
- There was one virtual public charter school in Arkansas in 2012–13, educating 499 students (4 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Arkansas has small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. While there are some successful public charter schools in Arkansas, the state's public charter school students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most

recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to provide more operational autonomy to charters, provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters, and create additional authorizing options for charter applicants.



# Arkansas

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		39	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		4				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		16,399	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	4	2	8
		White	50	63	-13			
		Black	38	20	18			
		Hispanic	7	10	-3			
		Asian	3	1	2			
		Total minority	50	37	13			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2011-12	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	58	59	-1	2	2	4
	2012-13	Special education status	3	6	-3			
		English language learner status	8	9	-1			
		Total special student populations	69	74	-5			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	49	20	29	2	2	4
		Suburb	10	7	3			
		Town	19	18	1			
		Rural	20	55	-35			
		Total non-suburban	90	93	-3			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	4	Average Annual Open Rate	16%		4	3	12
	2010-11	4						
	2011-12	4						
	2012-13	4						
	2013-14	9						
	Total Number	25						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	8%		2	3	6
	2009-10	3						
	2010-11	3						
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	2						
	Total Number	12						

# Arkansas

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	43	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	36			
		Year Round Calendar	14			
		Independent Study	21			
		School-to-Work	7			
		Higher Education Courses	14			
		Average	23			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-22		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-22		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	45	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		116
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	56	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		44
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	22	73		
		CMOs	6	20		
		EMOs	2	7		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	1	39	39	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		499		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		4		
		Number of virtual charter schools		1		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		3		

# California

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

8

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

72

## Law Summary

California enacted its public charter school law in 1992. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, California's law was ranked #9 out of 43. Highlights from the law include:

- While the state law has a cap on charter school growth, it is structured in a way that allows ample growth.
- Although the state law requires charter school applicants to initially submit their proposals to local school districts (in most cases), the state law provides a robust appellate process.
- The state law provides a fair amount of autonomy to charters but lacks some aspects of accountability (such as requiring performance-based contracts between public charter schools and authorizers).
- The state has made notable strides in recent years to provide more equitable funding to charters, although some work still remains.

## Health of the Movement Summary

California's public charter school movement ranked #8 out of 26, scoring 72 points out of 116.

### California scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Eleven percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- In 2011–12, 75 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 64 percent of traditional public schools.
- Twenty-eight communities had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters during 2012–13.

- Five hundred twenty-five public charters opened in California between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an 11 percent average annual open rate.
- One hundred forty-three public charter schools closed in California between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 3 percent average annual closure rate. Sixty percent of these schools were in the bottom quartile of performance in the state.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading between 2007–08 and 2010–11 when compared with traditional public school students (22 additional days).

### California scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- The state's public charter schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (7 percentage points less). While charters served a higher proportion of black students (4 percentage points more), they served lower proportions of Hispanic and Asian students (6 percentage points less for Hispanics and 5 percentage points less for Asians).
- The state's public charter schools served smaller percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students, special education students, and English learners when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (2 percentage points less, 2 percentage points less, and 6 percentage points less, respectively).
- On average, public charter school students exhibited less academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (seven fewer days).

# California

## In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in California:

- Eight percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14. Over the past six years, the number of public charter school students has doubled, with charters now educating more than a half million students.
- An average of 23 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Eighty-two percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 18 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 72 percent of the public charter schools in California were independently managed, 26 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 2 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 318 local and county school boards had authorized 1,105 public charter schools (98 percent of the state's total number of public charter schools), and the state board of education had authorized 23 public charter schools (2 percent).

- There were 27 virtual public charter schools in California 2012–13, serving 18,790 students (4 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

California has notable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading but not math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data reported by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) is from 2010–11. However, the California Charter Schools Association issued a report in August 2014 that shows increased academic achievement in California public charter schools over the last five years.

While this report focuses on statewide data, the charter school movement in Los Angeles bears special attention. Los Angeles public charter schools now educate one out of every 20 public charter school students in the nation. The number of students in Los Angeles charters has tripled over the past six years, with enrollment now standing at 143,000 students and an estimated waitlist of 36,000 students. Most significant, the typical student in a Los Angeles charter school gains more learning in a year than his or her district school peer, amounting to about 50 more days of learning in reading and an

additional 79 days of learning in math, according to the CREDO.

Also, a significant portion of public charter schools in California are nonautonomous. These schools are usually created by their local school districts and depend on the districts to make key decisions. They currently make up 28 percent of the public charter schools in the state. Given the different nature of these schools from truly autonomous and accountable charters, they may be masking the strength of the rest of the state's public charter school movement.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to require performance-based contracts between public charter schools and authorizers and further enhance its funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of Hispanic and Asian students and English learners (such as the lack of available or affordable facilities in neighborhoods where these students reside).

<sup>8</sup> California Charter Schools Association, *Portrait of the Movement*, August 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Center for Research on Education Outcomes, *Charter School Performance in Los Angeles*, February 2014, [http://credo.stanford.edu/pdfs/Los\\_Angeles\\_report\\_2014\\_FINAL\\_001.pdf](http://credo.stanford.edu/pdfs/Los_Angeles_report_2014_FINAL_001.pdf).



# California

Indicator	Year	Data			Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools			1,131	3	3	9
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters			11			
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students			514,172	2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students			8			
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	1	2	2
		White	32	25	7			
		Black	10	6	4			
		Hispanic	47	53	-6			
		Asian	7	12	-5			
		Other	4	4	0			
Total minority	68	75	-7					
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	55	57	-2	1	2	2
		Special education status	9	11	-2			
		English language learner status	16	22	-6			
		Total special student populations	80	90	-10			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	51	39	12	4	2	8
		Suburb	25	36	-11			
		Town	8	9	-1			
		Rural	15	17	-2			
		Total non-suburban	75	64	11			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	28			4	1	4	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	91	Average Annual Open Rate	11%	3	3	9	
	2010-11	119						
	2011-12	102						
	2012-13	109						
	2013-14	104						
	Total Number	525						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	31	Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	4	3	12	
	2009-10	10						
	2010-11	35						
	2011-12	28						
	2012-13	29						
	Total Number	143						

# California

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	49	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	24			
		Year Round Calendar	6			
		Independent Study	33			
		School-to-Work	7			
		Higher Education Courses	22			
		Average	23			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	22		3	4	12
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-7		1	4	4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	82	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		18
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	660	72		
		CMOs	237	26		
		EMOs	21	2		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	318	1,105	4	98
		SEAs	1	23	23	2
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			18,790	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			4	
		Number of virtual charter schools			27	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3	

# Colorado

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**12**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**63**

## Law Summary

Colorado enacted its public charter school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #5 out of 43. Colorado does not cap charter school growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, and provides multiple authorizers or a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Colorado's charter school movement ranked #12 out of 26, scoring 63 points out of 116.

### Colorado scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Eleven percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Eleven percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Thirteen communities in Colorado had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading when compared to traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (seven additional days).

### Colorado scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- The state's public charter schools served lower percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students and special education students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (7 percentage points less and 1 percentage point less, respectively).
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (seven fewer days). More recent data from the Colorado Department of Education shows that charter school academic growth in math is on an upward trajectory, though.<sup>10</sup>

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Colorado:

- The state's public charter schools served an identical percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Seventy-five percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 74 percent of traditional public schools.
- Sixty-six public charters opened in Colorado between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an 8 percent average annual open rate.

<sup>10</sup> Colorado Department of Education, *The State of Charter Schools*, Author: Denver, CO, April 2013.

# Colorado

- Seventeen public charter schools closed in Colorado between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 24 percent of the state’s public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Ninety-seven percent of the state’s public charter schools were startups, and 3 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- All public charter schools in Colorado must be organized as nonprofits. In 2010–11, 85 percent of these schools were independently managed, 6 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 9 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013-14, 45 local school boards had authorized 167 public charter schools (85 percent of the state’s total number of public charters), and the state’s independent charter board had authorized 30 public charter schools (15 percent).
- There were six virtual public charter schools in Colorado in 2012–13, serving 11,226 students (13 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Colorado has sizable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading but not math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to enhance its funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools and take steps to remedy these issues.

For example, many charter schools face challenges when it comes to accessing adequate educational facilities space, including the lack of full-service kitchens that allow a charter school to receive federal funding for free and reduced priced meals. The lack of such accessible space can lead to a reduction in the number of free- and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) students attending charters or in the number of charter schools participating in the FRPL program (although they may still serve students eligible for the program). This problem has been studied and documented by the Colorado League, in collaboration with the National Alliance, through the Charter School Facilities Initiative.

# Colorado

Indicator	Year	Data			Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		197	3	3	9	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		11				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		93,141	3	3	9	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		11				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	56	56	0			
		Black	6	5	1			
		Hispanic	31	33	-2			
		Asian	4	3	1			
		Other	4	4	0			
Total minority	45	45	0					
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	35	42	-7	1	2	2
		Special education status	14	15	-1			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	49	57	-8			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	37	29	8	2	2	4
		Suburb	25	26	-1			
		Town	8	13	-5			
		Rural	29	33	-4			
		Total non-suburban	75	74	1			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	13			4	1	4	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	13	Average Annual Open Rate	8%	2	3	6	
	2010-11	14						
	2011-12	13						
	2012-13	12						
	2013-14	14						
	Total Number	66						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	4	Average Annual Closure Rate	2%	3	3	9	
	2009-10	5						
	2010-11	2						
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	3						
	Total Number	17						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	45	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	36			
		Year Round Calendar	5			
		Independent Study	29			
		School-to-Work	5			
		Higher Education Courses	21			
		Average	24			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	7		2	4	8
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7		1	4	4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	97	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		3
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	142	85		
		CMOs	10	6		
		EMOs	15	9		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	45	167	4	85
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	30	30	15
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			11,226	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			13	
		Number of virtual charter schools			6	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3	

# Connecticut

*This state was not ranked.*

Connecticut enacted its public charter school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #33 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. The law contains significant restrictions on charter school growth; includes a single authorizer; and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Connecticut's movement met the first condition, Connecticut was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Connecticut's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 18 public charter schools and 6,981 public charter school students in Connecticut, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2012–13, on average, public charter schools in Connecticut

served higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (47 percentage points more) and free and reduced-price lunch students (37 percentage points more) as compared with traditional public schools. However, they also served lower percentages of special education students (2 percentage points less) and English learners (6 percentage points less).

- Eighty-eight percent of the state's public charter schools were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 49 percent of traditional public schools.
- One new public charter school opened in Connecticut between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 1 percent average annual open rate.
- One public charter school closed in Connecticut between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 19 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- 100 percent of the state's public charter schools were startups during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 83 percent of the public charter schools were independently managed, and 17 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization. None were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.

# Connecticut

- The state board of education is the sole authorizer in the state. It had authorized 18 public charter schools as of 2013–14.
- There are no virtual public charter schools in Connecticut.

## Recommendations

Connecticut has small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to remove its remaining restrictions on growth, provide additional authorizing options, increase operational autonomy, strengthen accountability, and provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of special education students and English learners than traditional public schools.





# Connecticut

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		18	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		1	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		6,981	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		1	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	9	60	-51
		Black	60	12	48
		Hispanic	24	20	4
		Asian	1	4	-3
		Total minority	88	41	47
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	72	35	37
		Special education status	3	5	-2
		English language learner status	5	11	-6
		Total special student populations	80	51	29
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	82	28	54
		Suburb	12	51	-39
		Town	6	5	1
		Rural	0	16	-16
		Total non-suburban	88	49	39
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average Annual Open Rate	1%	
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	1			
	Total Number	1			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	
	2009-10	0			
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	1			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	62			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	25			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	13			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	13			
		Average	19			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	15	83		
		CMOs	3	17		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	11	18	18	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Delaware

*This state was not ranked.*

Delaware enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #17 out of 43. Delaware does not have a cap on charter growth, allows multiple authorizing entities, and provides a fair amount of autonomy to its public charter schools. Over the past few years, Delaware has also taken steps to strengthen the accountability of its public charter schools and provide additional funding to them.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Delaware's movement met the first condition, Delaware was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Delaware's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 21 public charter schools and 11,078 public charter school students in Delaware, constituting 9 percent of the state's public schools and 8 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- Public charter schools in Delaware served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (5 percentage points more) but a lower percentage of students in special populations (23 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Sixty-eight percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 57 percent of traditional public schools.
- Three communities in Delaware had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- Four new public charter schools opened in Delaware between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 4 percent average annual open rate.
- Two public charter schools closed in Delaware between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 27 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 95 percent of the state's public charter schools were independently managed, and 5 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. None were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.

# Delaware

- The state allows local school boards and the state board of education to serve as authorizers. As of 2013–14, one local school board had authorized three public charter schools, and the state board of education had authorized 18 public charter schools.
- There was one virtual public charter school in Delaware during 2012–13 serving 182 students (2 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Delaware has notable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to further enhance its funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of free and reduced-price lunch students, special education students, and English learners than traditional public schools.



# Delaware

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Growth Indicators</b>						
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		21		
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		9		
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		11,078		
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		8		
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional		Difference
		White	43	49		-6
		Black	41	31		10
		Hispanic	7	14		-7
		Asian	6	3		3
		Total minority	56	51		5
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	40	53		-13
		Special education status	2	6		-4
		English language learner status	8	14		-6
		Total special student populations	50	73		-23
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	55	14		41
		Suburb	32	43		-11
		Town	0	19	-19	
		Rural	14	24	-10	
		Total non-suburban	68	57	11	
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	3				
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average Annual Open Rate	4%		
	2010-11	1				
	2011-12	3				
	2012-13	0				
	2013-14	0				
	Total Number	4				
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	2%		
	2009-10	1				
	2010-11	0				
	2011-12	0				
	2012-13	1				
	Total Number	2				

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	60			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	20			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	20			
		School-to-Work	20			
		Higher Education Courses	40			
		Average	27			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	18	95		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	1	5		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	1	3	3	14
		SEAs	1	18	18	86
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# District of Columbia

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

1

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)<sup>11</sup>

104

## Law Summary

The District of Columbia enacted its public charter school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #10 out of 43. D.C.'s law has a cap on charters that allows for ample growth, includes an independent charter board as the authorizer, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

D.C.'s public charter school movement ranked #1 out of 26, scoring 104 points out of 116.

### D.C. scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Forty-nine percent of D.C.'s public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Forty-four percent of D.C.'s public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- D.C.'s public charter schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (13 percentage points more).
- D.C.'s public charter schools served a higher percentage of free- and reduced-price lunch students during 2012–13 when compared with traditional public schools (11 percentage points more).

- Eighteen public charter schools closed in D.C. between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 4 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 29 percent of D.C.'s public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (72 more days in reading and 101 more days in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in D.C.:

- Thirty-five public charters opened in D.C. between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 7 percent average annual open rate.
- Ninety-three percent of D.C.'s public charter schools were startups, and 7 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 55 percent of the public charter schools in D.C. were independently managed, 38 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 7 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.

<sup>11</sup> Only nine of the 11 indicators were applicable to D.C. D.C. received 94 out of 104 points for those nine indicators, or 90 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 11 indicators (116) by 90 percent to get a score comparable to the other states.

# District of Columbia

- In 2013–14, D.C. allowed only the D.C. Public Charter School Board to serve as an authorizer, so the D.C. Public Charter School Board oversaw 100 percent of D.C.'s 107 public charter schools that year.
- There was one virtual charter school in D.C. during 2012–13, serving 100 students (1 percent of D.C.'s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

There are significant proportions of public charter schools and public charter school students in D.C. Such students are achieving better reading and math outcomes when compared with their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. We encourage D.C. to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.





# District of Columbia

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		107		4	3	12
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		49				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		36,565		4	3	12
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		44				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	4	2	8
		White	3	16	-13			
		Black	83	69	14			
		Hispanic	12	13	-1			
		Asian	1	1	0			
		Total minority	97	84	13			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	72	61	11	3	2	6
		Special education status	12	14	-2			
		English language learner status	8	9	-1			
		Total special student populations	92	84	8			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	100	100	0		2	
		Suburb	0	0	0			
		Town	0	0	0			
		Rural	0	0	0			
		Total non-suburban	100	100	0			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1					1	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	8		Average Annual Open Rate	7%	2	3	6
	2010-11	7						
	2011-12	10						
	2012-13	6						
	2013-14	4						
	Total Number	35						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	5		Average Annual Closure Rate	4%	4	3	12
	2009-10	6						
	2010-11	4						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	3						
	Total Number	18						

# District of Columbia

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	76	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	64			
		Year Round Calendar	9			
		Independent Study	15			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	12			
		Average	29			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	72		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	101		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>104<sup>12</sup></b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	93	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		7
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	54	55		
		CMOs	37	38		
		EMOs	7	7		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	107	107	100
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		100		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		1		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		1		

<sup>12</sup> Only nine of the 11 indicators were applicable to D.C. D.C. received 94 out of 104 points for those nine indicators, or 90 percent. We then multiplied the total points possible for all 11 indicators (116) by 90 percent to get a score comparable to the other states.

# Florida

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**11**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**70**

## Law Summary

Florida enacted its public charter school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #8 out of 43. Florida does not have a cap on charter growth, provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, and provides a robust appellate process for charter school applicants. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Florida's public charter school movement ranked #11 out of 26, scoring 70 points out of 116.

### Florida scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Sixteen percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (6 percentage points more).
- Eleven communities in Florida had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- Three hundred twenty-eight public charters opened in Florida between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 13 percent average annual open rate.
- Ninety-two public charters closed in Florida between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 4 percent average annual closure rate.

### Florida scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools in Florida served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (10 percentage points less).
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students in reading between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (seven fewer days) and the same academic growth in math.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Florida:

- Eight percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Fifty-five percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12, the same as for traditional public schools.
- An average of 16 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Ninety-seven percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 3 percent of public charter schools were conversions during 2012–13.

# Florida

- In 2010–11, 65 percent of the public charter schools in Florida were independently managed, 3 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 32 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 45 local school boards had authorized 622 public charter schools (99 percent of the state’s total number of public charter schools), and two higher education institutions had authorized three public charter schools (1 percent).
- There were two virtual public charter schools in Florida in 2012–13, serving 76 students (0.3 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

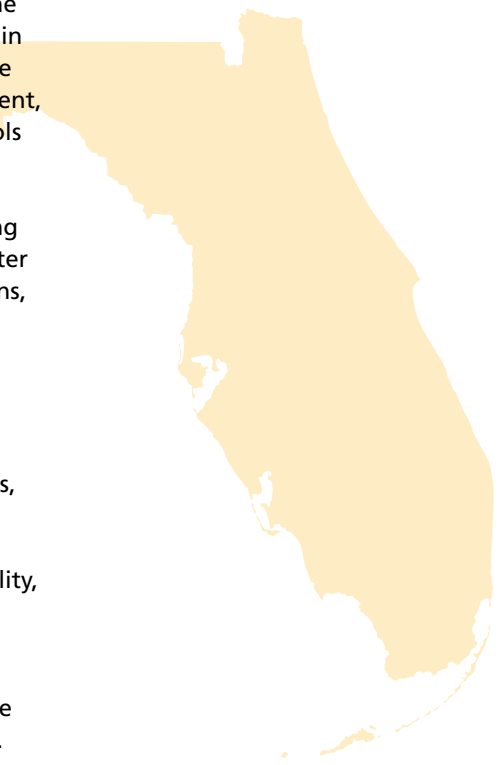
## Recommendations

Florida has notable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing the same as their peers in traditional public schools in math but worse in reading — although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

Recognizing these strengths and challenges in the movement, Florida charter school supporters have worked to enact changes to the state’s charter school laws and

regulations over the past few years, primarily as it relates to charter school accountability. There is evidence that these changes are already having a positive impact. According to a report issued by the Florida Department of Education in May 2014, in 58 of the 63 separate comparisons of student achievement, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher proficiency rates. This report also found that the percentage of students making learning gains was higher in charter schools in 76 of the 96 comparisons, while the achievement gap was lower for charter school students in 18 of the 18 comparisons.<sup>12</sup>

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state continue to strengthen charter school and authorizer accountability, enhance its funding and facilities support to charters, and explore why public charter schools are serving a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students.



<sup>12</sup> Florida Department of Education, Student Achievement in Florida’s Charter Schools: A Comparison of the Performance of Charter School Students with Traditional Public School Students, Author: Tallahassee, FL, May 2014.

# Florida

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		625	4	3	12	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		16				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		229,926	2	3	6	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		8				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	3	2	6
		White	35	42	-7			
		Black	22	23	-1			
		Hispanic	37	29	8			
		Asian	2	3	-1			
		Total minority	65	59	6			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	48	58	-10	1	2	2
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	48	58	-10			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	37	27	10	2	2	4
		Suburb	45	45	0			
		Town	4	8	-4			
		Rural	14	20	-6			
		Total non-suburban	55	55	0			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	11				4	1	4
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	40	Average Annual Open Rate	13%		4	3	12
	2010-11	57						
	2011-12	76						
	2012-13	80						
	2013-14	75						
	Total Number	328						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	21	Average Annual Closure Rate	4%		4	3	12
	2009-10	7						
	2010-11	20						
	2011-12	18						
	2012-13	26						
	Total Number	92						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	43	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	12			
		Year Round Calendar	4			
		Independent Study	15			
		School-to-Work	6			
		Higher Education Courses	15			
		Average	16			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7		1	4	4
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	0		1	4	4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	97	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		3
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	298	65		
		CMOs	15	3		
		EMOs	147	32		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	45	622	14	99
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	2	3	2	1
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students		76		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0.04		
		Number of virtual charter schools		2		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0.3		

# Georgia

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**18**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**47**

## Law Summary

Georgia enacted its public charter school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #22 out of 43. While Georgia does not cap charter school growth and provides multiple authorizers to charter school applicants, it provides inadequate autonomy and accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Georgia's public charter school movement ranked #18 out of 26, scoring 47 points out of 116.

### Georgia scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Sixty-seven public charters opened in Georgia between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 13 percent average annual open rate.

### Georgia scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Public charter schools in Georgia served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools during 2012–13 (9 percentage points less).

- Only three communities in Georgia had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 fewer days).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Georgia:

- Public charter schools in Georgia served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools during 2012–13 (1 percentage point more).
- Sixty-five percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas during 2011–12 as compared to 69 percent of traditional public schools.
- Thirty-seven public charter schools closed in Georgia between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an 8 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 25 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

# Georgia

- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 more days).
- Seventy-two percent of the state’s public charters were startups, and 28 percent were conversions in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 85 percent of the public charter schools in Georgia were independently managed, 4 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 11 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 34 local school boards had authorized 94 public charter schools (86 percent of the state’s total number of public charters), and the Georgia Charter Schools Commission had authorized 15 public charter schools (14 percent).
- There were three virtual public charter schools in Georgia in 2012–13, serving 13,412 students (25 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Georgia has small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading but not math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to increase operational autonomy, strengthen accountability, and enhance its funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools.





# Georgia

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		110		1	1	3
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		5				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		70,718		1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		4				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	44	44	0			
		Black	38	37	1			
		Hispanic	12	13	-1			
		Asian	4	3	1			
		Other	3	3	0			
Total minority	57	56	1					
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	51	60	-9	1	2	2
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	51	60	-9			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	41	17	24	2	2	4
		Suburb	35	31	4			
		Town	3	12	-9			
		Rural	21	41	-20			
		Total non-suburban	65	69	-4			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	3				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	11		Average Annual Open Rate	13%	4	3	12
	2010-11	19						
	2011-12	20						
	2012-13	7						
	2013-14	10						
	Total Number	67						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	4		Average Annual Closure Rate	8%	2	3	6
	2009-10	7						
	2010-11	8						
	2011-12	10						
	2012-13	8						
	Total Number	37						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	59	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	18			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	18			
		School-to-Work	27			
		Higher Education Courses	27			
		Average	25			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	14		2	4	8
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-14		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	72	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		28
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	84	85		
		CMOs	4	4		
		EMOs	11	11		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	34	94	3	86
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	15	15	14
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		13,412		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		25		
		Number of virtual charter schools		3		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		3		

# Hawaii

*This state was not ranked.*

Hawaii enacted its public charter school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #21 out of 43. Hawaii does not cap charter school growth and provides a single authorizing option to charter applicants. Hawaii made some substantial improvements to its charter law in 2012, particularly in relation to governance and accountability. However, the law still provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Hawaii's movement met the first condition, Hawaii was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Hawaii's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 33 public charter schools and 9,840 public charter school students in Hawaii, constituting 11 percent of the state's public schools and

5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.

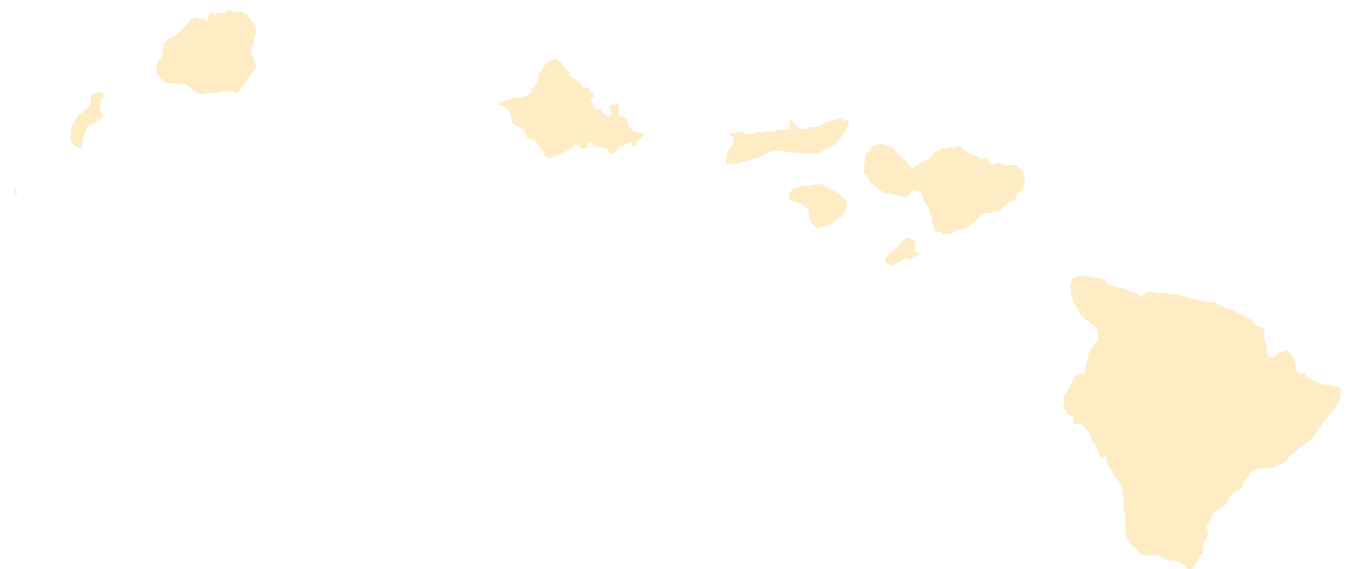
- Public charter schools in Hawaii served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (13 percentage points less), free and reduced-price lunch students (2 percentage points less) in 2010–11, and English learners (2 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Ninety percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 62 percent of traditional public schools.
- Two new public charter schools opened in Hawaii between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 1 percent average annual open rate.
- No public charter schools closed in Hawaii between 2008–09 and 2012–13.
- An average of 13 percent of the public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Eighty-one percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 19 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 97 percent of the state's public charter schools were independently managed, and 3 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. None were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.

# Hawaii

- As of 2013–14, the state's independent charter authorizer had authorized 100 percent of the state's 33 public charters.
- There were zero virtual public charter schools in Hawaii in 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Hawaii has a notable population of public charter schools and a modest population of public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to exempt public charter schools from collective bargaining agreements and enhance its funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students, free and reduced-price lunch students, and English learners than traditional public schools.



# Hawaii

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		33	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		11	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		9,840	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	27	14	13
		Black	2	3	-1
		Hispanic	2	5	-3
		Asian	14	36	-22
		Other	56	43	13
		Total minority	74	87	-13
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2010-11	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	45	47	-2
	2012-13	Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	8	10	-2
		Total special student populations	53	57	-4
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	19	22	-3
		Suburb	10	38	-28
		Town	26	26	0
		Rural	45	14	31
		Total non-suburban	90	62	28
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average Annual Open Rate	1%	
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	1			
	Total Number	2			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	0%	
	2009-10	0			
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	0			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	27			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	13			
		Year Round Calendar	7			
		Independent Study	13			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	20			
		Average	13			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	81	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		19
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	30	97		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	1	3		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	33	33	100
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Idaho

*This state was not ranked.*

Idaho enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was #20 out of 43. Idaho's law is mostly cap-free, provides multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it still provides inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Idaho's movement met the first condition, Idaho was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Idaho's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 47 public charter schools and 20,380 public charter school students in Idaho, constituting 6 percent of the state's public schools and 7 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- Public charter schools in Idaho served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students than traditional public schools in 2010–11 (10 percentage points less) and a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools in 2010–11 (32 percentage points less).
- Eighty percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 90 percent of traditional public schools.
- There were no communities in Idaho with more than 10 percent of public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- Twenty new public charter schools opened in Idaho between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 10 percent average annual open rate.
- Four public charter schools closed in Idaho between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 31 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups in 2012–13.

# Idaho

- In 2010–11, 95 percent of the state’s public charter schools were independently managed, and 5 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. None were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 13 local school boards had authorized 15 public charter schools (32 percent of the state’s total number of public charter schools), and the state’s independent charter board had authorized 32 public charter schools (68 percent).
- There were seven virtual public charter schools in Idaho during 2012–13, serving 5,213 students (27 percent of the charter population).

## Recommendations

Idaho has modest populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to enhance its funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students, free and reduced-price lunch students, and nonsuburban students than traditional public schools.





# Idaho

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		47	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		6	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		20,380	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		7	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	88	78	10
		Black	1	1	0
		Hispanic	6	17	-11
		Asian	2	1	1
		Other	3	3	0
		Total minority	12	22	-10
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2010-11	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	15	47	-32
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	15	47	-32
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	26	22	4
		Suburb	20	10	10
		Town	24	22	2
		Rural	30	46	-16
		Total non-suburban	80	90	-10
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	6	Average Annual Open Rate	10%	
	2010-11	5			
	2011-12	4			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	4			
	Total Number	20			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	2%	
	2009-10	1			
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	1			
	Total Number	4			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	44			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	22			
		Year Round Calendar	6			
		Independent Study	33			
		School-to-Work	22			
		Higher Education Courses	56			
		Average	31			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	38	95		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	2	5		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	13	15	1	32
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	32	32	68
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			5,213	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			27	
		Number of virtual charter schools			7	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			16	

# Illinois

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**13**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**60**

## Law Summary

Illinois enacted its public charter school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #31 out of 43. While Illinois' law provides an appellate process for charter school applicants rejected by local school districts and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability, it contains caps on charter school growth and provides inequitable funding for charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Illinois' public charter school movement ranked #13 out of 26, scoring 60 points out of 116.

### Illinois scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Fifty-seven public charters opened in Illinois between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 9 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 28 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 more days in reading and 22 more days in math).

### Illinois scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 3 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Only one community in Illinois had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters in 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Illinois:

- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (47 percentage points more).
- Public charter schools in Illinois served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (40 percentage points more).
- Ninety-two percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 63 percent of traditional public schools.
- Eight public charters closed in Illinois between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.

- Ninety-three percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 7 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 55 percent of the public charter schools in Illinois were independently managed, 41 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 4 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, 11 local school boards had authorized 144 public charter schools (97 percent of the state's total number of public charters), and the state's independent charter board had authorized four public charter schools (3 percent).
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Illinois during 2012–13.

## Recommendations

There are small proportions of public charter schools and public charter school students in Illinois. Such students are achieving better reading and math student outcomes when compared with their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including lifting its caps on charter school growth and

ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



# Illinois

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		145	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		3				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		59,627	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	4	52	-48			
		Black	57	17	40			
		Hispanic	35	24	11			
		Asian	1	4	-3			
		Total minority	96	49	47			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	87	47	40	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	87	47	40			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	85	25	60	2	2	4
		Suburb	8	37	-29			
		Town	4	14	-10			
		Rural	4	24	-20			
		Total non-suburban	92	63	29			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	9	Average Annual Open Rate	9%	3	3	9	
	2010-11	17						
	2011-12	7						
	2012-13	10						
	2013-14	14						
	Total Number	57						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	2	Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	2	3	6	
	2009-10	3						
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	0						
	2012-13	3						
	Total Number	8						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	74	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	52			
		Year Round Calendar	4			
		Independent Study	17			
		School-to-Work	13			
		Higher Education Courses	9			
		Average	28			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14		2	4	8
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	22		3	4	12
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	93	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		7
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	64	55		
		CMOs	47	41		
		EMOs	5	4		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	11	141	13	97
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	4	4	3
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# Indiana

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

7

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

73

## Law Summary

Indiana enacted its public charter school law in 2001. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #2 out of 43. Indiana's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Indiana's public charter school movement ranked #7 out of 26, scoring 73 points out of 116.

### Indiana scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools in Indiana served a higher percentage of students in special populations when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (14 percentage points more).
- Eighty-eight percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 81 percent of traditional public schools.
- Thirty-nine public charters opened in Indiana between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 12 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 30 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (36 more days).

### Indiana scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Only two communities in Indiana had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Indiana:

- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (32 percentage points more).
- Twelve public charters closed in Indiana between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 4 percent average annual closure rate
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 more days).

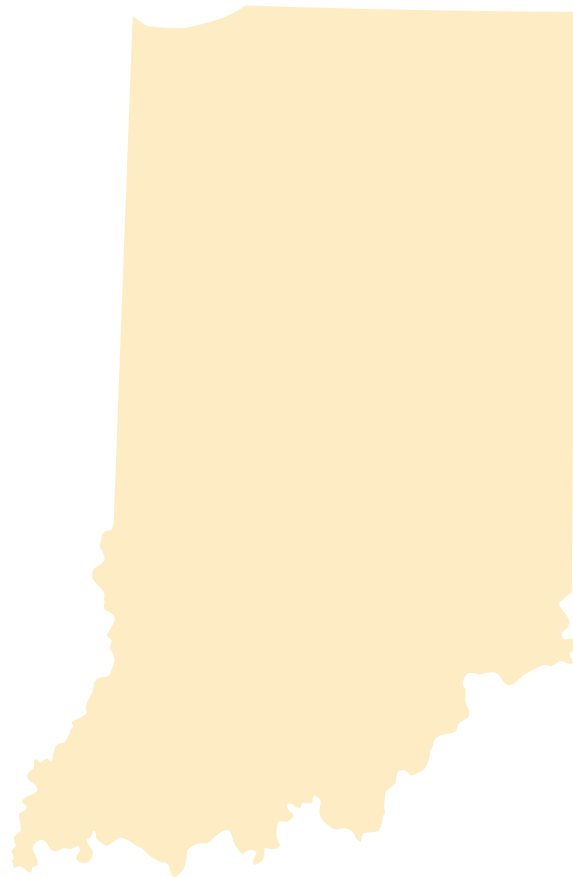
# Indiana

- Ninety-nine percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 1 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 58 percent of the public charter schools in Indiana were independently managed, 27 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 15 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, three local school boards had authorized four public charter schools (6 percent of the state's total number of public charters), one independent state charter board had authorized eight public charters (4 percent), one noneducational government entity had authorized 28 public charters (31 percent), and four higher education institutions had authorized 36 public charters (59 percent).
- There were four virtual public charter schools in Indiana in 2012–13, serving 7,102 students (21 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

There are small proportions of public charter schools and public charter school students in Indiana. Such students are achieving better reading and math student outcomes when compared with their peers in traditional public schools, although

it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.





# Indiana

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Growth Indicators</b>									
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		75	1	3	3		
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		4					
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		35,552	1	3	3		
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3					
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4	
		White	40	73	-33				
		Black	44	11	33				
		Hispanic	10	10	0				
		Asian	1	2	-1				
		Total minority	60	28	32				
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status		64	49	14	4	2	8
		Special education status		5	5	0			
		English language learner status		13	14	-1			
		Total special student populations		82	68	14			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	74	24	50	3	2	6	
		Suburb	12	19	-7				
		Town	3	17	-14				
		Rural	11	40	-29				
		Total non-suburban	88	81	7				
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	2				1	1	1	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	5		Average Annual Open Rate	12%	3	3	9	
	2010-11	8							
	2011-12	4							
	2012-13	11							
	2013-14	11							
	Total Number	39							
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0		Average Annual Closure Rate	4%	3	3	9	
	2009-10	0							
	2010-11	1							
	2011-12	3							
	2012-13	8							
	Total Number	12							

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	63	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	63			
		Year Round Calendar	5			
		Independent Study	11			
		School-to-Work	11			
		Higher Education Courses	26			
		Average	30			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	36		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	14		2	4	8
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	99	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		1
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	36	58		
		CMOs	17	27		
		EMOs	9	15		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	3	4	1	6
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	8	8	4
		NEGs	1	28	28	31
		HEIs	4	36	9	59
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			7,102	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			21	
		Number of virtual charter schools			4	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			5	

# Iowa

*This state was not ranked.*

Iowa enacted its public charter school law in 2002. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #41 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Iowa's charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Iowa's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were three public charter schools and 315 public charter school students in Iowa, constituting less than 1 percent of the state's public schools and less than 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- Public charter schools in Iowa served, on average, more racial

and ethnic minority students (41 percentage points more) and more free and reduced-price lunch students (54 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.

- One hundred percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 95 percent of traditional public schools.
- One new public charter school opened in Iowa between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an average annual open rate of 4 percent.
- Six public charter schools closed in Iowa between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 18 percent.
- An average of 83 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- In 2012–13, all three of the state's public charter schools were conversions, meaning there were no startup charters in the state.
- In 2010–11, all eight of the state's public charter schools were independently managed, meaning none of them were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization or a for-profit educational management organization.

- In 2013–14, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. As of that year, three had done so.
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Iowa during 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Iowa has very small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options, strengthen accountability, increase operational autonomy, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		0.2	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		315	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		0.1	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	40	80	-40
		Black	34	5	29
		Hispanic	16	9	7
		Asian	1	2	-1
		Other	10	4	6
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	78	24	54
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	78	24	54
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	0	17	-17
		Suburb	0	5	-5
		Town	20	23	-3
		Rural	80	54	26
		Total non-suburban	100	95	5
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average Annual Open Rate	4%	
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total Number	1			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	18%	
	2009-10	1			
	2010-11	2			
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	6			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	100			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	100			
		Year Round Calendar	100			
		Independent Study	0			
		School-to-Work	100			
		Higher Education Courses	100			
		Average	83			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	0	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		100
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	8	100		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	3	3	1	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# Kansas

*This state was not ranked.*

Kansas enacted its public charter school law in 1994. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, Kansas' law was ranked #42 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Kansas' charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Kansas' public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 11 public charter schools and 2,549 public charter school students in Kansas, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- Public charter schools in Kansas served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (7 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (33 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- One hundred percent of public charter schools were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 91 percent of traditional public schools.
- Four new public charter schools opened in Kansas between 2009–10 and 2013–14. The average annual open rate was 4 percent.
- Twenty-eight public charter schools closed in Kansas between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 22 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 21 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Ninety-three percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 7 percent were conversions in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 92 percent of the public charter schools were independently managed, and 8 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. No public charter schools were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.

# Kansas

- Only local school districts are allowed to authorize in the state. Eleven of them had done so as of 2013–14.
- There were four virtual public charter schools open in 2012–13, serving 2,243 students (74 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Kansas has very small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options, strengthen accountability, increase operational autonomy, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools.





# Kansas

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		11	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		1	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		2,549	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		1	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	75	68	7
		Black	3	8	-5
		Hispanic	14	16	-2
		Asian	6	6	0
		Total minority	29	36	-7
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	16	49	-33
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	16	49	-33
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	6	17	-11
		Suburb	0	9	-9
		Town	24	24	0
		Rural	71	50	21
		Total non-suburban	100	91	9
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	4	Average Annual Open Rate	4%	
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	0			
	Total Number	4			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	3	Average Annual Closure Rate	22%	
	2009-10	11			
	2010-11	8			
	2011-12	2			
	2012-13	4			
	Total Number	28			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	25			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	0			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	50			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	50			
		Average	21			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	93	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		7
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	23	92		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	2	8		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	11	11	1	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			2,243	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			74	
		Number of virtual charter schools			4	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			27	

# Louisiana

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

2

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

85

## Law Summary

Louisiana enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #3 out of 43. Louisiana's law does not cap charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it also provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Louisiana's public charter school movement ranked #2 out of 26, scoring 85 points out of 116.

### Louisiana scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools in Louisiana served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2010–11 (16 percentage points more).
- Ninety-seven percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 81 percent of traditional public schools.
- Seventy-one public charters opened in Louisiana between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 15 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 27 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (50 more days in reading and 65 more days in math).

### Louisiana scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only one community had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters during 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Louisiana:

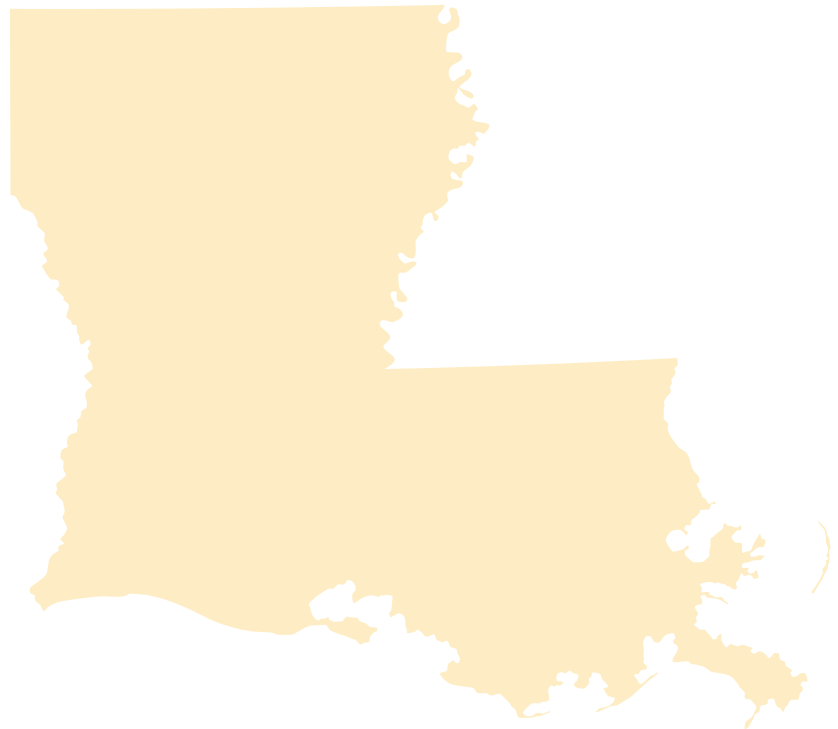
- Eight percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Eight percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Public charter schools in Louisiana served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (39 percentage points more).
- Twenty-two public charter schools closed in Louisiana between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 5 percent average annual closure rate.
- Seventy percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 30 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# Louisiana

- In 2010–11, 52 percent of the public charter schools in Louisiana were independently managed, 42 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 6 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 10 local school boards had authorized 35 public charter schools (30 percent of the state’s total number of public charters), and the state board of education had authorized 82 public charter schools (70 percent).
- There were two virtual public charter schools in Louisiana during 2012–13, serving 2,562 students (8 percent of the state’s public charter population).

## Recommendations

There are notable proportions of public charter schools and public charter school students in Louisiana. Such students are achieving better reading and math student outcomes when compared with their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



# Louisiana

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		117		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		8				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		59,059		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		8				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	12	51	-39			
		Black	82	43	39			
		Hispanic	3	3	0			
		Asian	2	1	1			
		Total minority	88	49	39			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2010-11	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	81	65	16	3	2	6
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	81	65	16			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	88	23	65	3	2	6
		Suburb	3	19	-16			
		Town	2	21	-19			
		Rural	7	37	-30			
		Total non-suburban	97	81	16			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	12		Average Annual Open Rate	15%	4	3	12
	2010-11	14						
	2011-12	13						
	2012-13	14						
	2013-14	18						
	Total Number	71						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1		Average Annual Closure Rate	5%	2	3	6
	2009-10	1						
	2010-11	4						
	2011-12	10						
	2012-13	6						
	Total Number	22						

# Louisiana

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	54	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	46			
		Year Round Calendar	13			
		Independent Study	29			
		School-to-Work	8			
		Higher Education Courses	13			
		Average	27			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	50		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	65		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	70	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		30
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	47	52		
		CMOs	38	42		
		EMOs	5	6		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	10	35	4	30
		SEAs	1	82	82	70
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			2,562	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			8	
		Number of virtual charter schools			2	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			2	

# Maine

*This state was not ranked.*

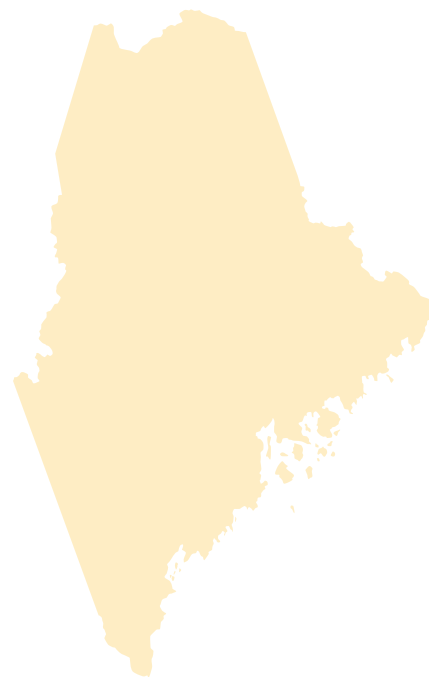
Maine enacted its public charter school law in 2011. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #4 out of 43.

Maine's relatively new law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, provides operational autonomy to public charter schools, and provides equitable operational funding to public charter schools. The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 10 state-authorized public charter schools during the initial 10 years that the law is in effect (there is no cap on the number of charters that local school districts can approve) and a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charters' facilities needs.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Since Maine just enacted its public charter school law in 2011, its charter school movement did not meet

either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Maine's public charter school movement in this year's report.

In 2013–14, there were five public charter schools and 383 public charter school students in Maine, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and less than 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively. All of the schools are startups and are authorized by the new statewide authorizer.









# Maryland

*This state was not ranked.*

Maryland enacted its public charter school law in 2003. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #43 out of 43, making it the weakest law in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Maryland's movement met the first condition, Maryland was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Maryland's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 52 public charter schools and 21,397 public charter school students in Maryland, constituting 4 percent of the state's public schools and

3 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.<sup>13</sup>

- Public charter schools in Maryland served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (28 percentage points more) and students in special populations (37 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Eighty-four percent of public charter schools were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 44 percent of traditional public schools.
- In 2012–13, one community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students enrolled in charters.
- Between 2009–10 and 2013–14, 24 new public charter schools opened in Maryland, a 10 percent average annual open rate.
- Six public charter schools closed in Maryland between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 3 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 10 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Seventy-seven percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 23 percent were conversions in 2012–13.

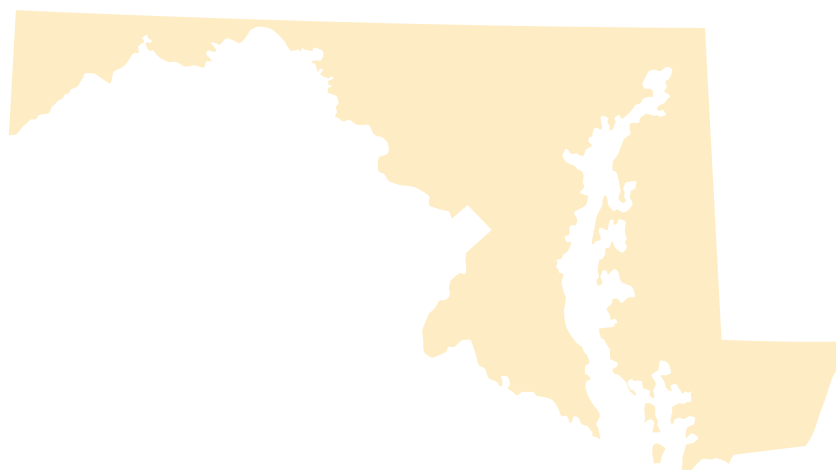
<sup>13</sup> Of these 52 schools, six are "transformation schools" that are operated by independent education entities and have a specific theme and a unique curriculum that focuses on college, career, or alternative programming. However, these schools do not have charter contracts. These six schools planned to close or reopen as traditional public schools in 2014.

# Maryland

- In 2010–11, 64 percent of the public charter schools were independently managed, 27 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 9 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- Only local school districts are allowed to authorize in the state. Seven of them had done so as of 2013–14.
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Maryland in 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Maryland has modest populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options, strengthen accountability, increase operational autonomy, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



# Maryland

Indicator	Year	Data					
<b>Growth Indicators</b>							
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		52			
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		4			
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		21,397			
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3			
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference		
		White	12	43	-31		
		Black	76	34	42		
		Hispanic	5	13	-8		
		Asian	2	6	-4		
		Other	2	4	-2		
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	53	44	9		
		Special education status	34	7	27		
		English language learner status	12	11	1		
		Total special student populations	99	62	37		
		5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	78	19	59
				Suburb	16	56	-40
Town	0			5	-5		
Rural	6			20	-14		
Total non-suburban	84			44	40		
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1					
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	3	Average Annual Open Rate	10%			
	2010-11	9					
	2011-12	7					
	2012-13	2					
	2013-14	3					
	Total Number	24					
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	3%			
	2009-10	1					
	2010-11	1					
	2011-12	0					
	2012-13	3					
	Total Number	6					

# Maryland

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	23			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	0			
		Year Round Calendar	15			
		Independent Study	8			
		School-to-Work	8			
		Higher Education Courses	8			
		Average	10			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	77	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		23
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	28	64		
		CMOs	12	27		
		EMOs	4	9		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	7	52	7	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Massachusetts

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

6

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

73

## Law Summary

Massachusetts enacted its public charter school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #11 out of 43. Massachusetts provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, but it contains a variety of caps on charter growth, includes only a single authorizing path, and provides inequitable funding.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Massachusetts' public charter school movement ranked #6 out of 26, scoring 73 points out of 116.

### Massachusetts scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools in Massachusetts served a higher percentage of special population students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (12 percentage points more).
- An average of 31 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (36 more days in reading and 65 more days in math).

### Massachusetts scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Only one community had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters during 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Massachusetts:

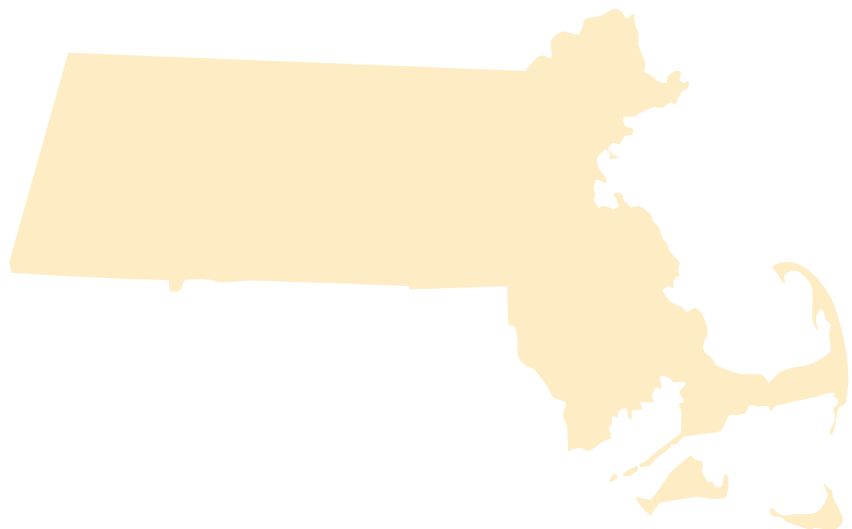
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (29 percentage points more).
- Sixty-five percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 37 percent of traditional public schools.
- Twenty-six public charters opened in the state between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 7 percent average annual open rate.
- Five public charter schools closed in the state between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- Ninety-two percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 8 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# Massachusetts

- In 2010–11, 94 percent of the public charter schools in Massachusetts were independently managed, 3 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 3 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- The only authorizer in Massachusetts is the state board of education. As of 2013–14, the state board of education had authorized 81 public charters.
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Massachusetts during 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Massachusetts has small proportions of public charter schools and public charter school students. However, such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading and math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including lifting its many restrictions on charter school growth and providing more equitable funding and facilities support to charters.



# Massachusetts

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		81	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		4				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		33,214	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	38	67	-29			
		Black	28	8	20			
		Hispanic	26	16	10			
		Asian	5	6	-1			
		Total minority	62	33	29			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	53	37	16	4	2	8
		Special education status	7	8	-1			
		English language learner status	13	16	-3			
		Total special student populations	73	61	12			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	54	21	33	2	2	4
		Suburb	35	63	-28			
		Town	1	3	-2			
		Rural	9	13	-4			
		Total non-suburban	65	37	28			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	2	Average Annual Open Rate	7%	2	3	6	
	2010-11	2						
	2011-12	9						
	2012-13	7						
	2013-14	6						
	Total Number	26						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	2%	2	3	6	
	2009-10	1						
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	2						
	Total Number	5						

# Massachusetts

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	62	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	43			
		Year Round Calendar	5			
		Independent Study	33			
		School-to-Work	10			
		Higher Education Courses	33			
		Average	31			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	36		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	65		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	92	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		8
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	59	94		
		CMOs	2	3		
		EMOs	2	3		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	1	81	81	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		



# Michigan

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

3

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

84

## Law Summary

Michigan enacted its public charter school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #18 out of 43. Michigan's law contains caps on public charter schools that allow for ample growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of accountability. However, it provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Michigan's public charter school movement ranked #3 out of 26, scoring 84 points out of 116.

### Michigan scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Eight communities in Michigan had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- One hundred eight charters opened in Michigan between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an 8 percent average annual open rate.
- Forty-two charters closed in Michigan between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 3 percent average annual closure rate.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (43 more days in reading and 43 more days in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Michigan:

- Eight percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Nine percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (40 percentage points more).
- Public charter schools in Michigan served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (25 percentage points more).
- Seventy percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 66 percent of traditional public schools.
- An average of 22 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups during 2012–13.

# Michigan

- In 2010–11, 31 percent of the public charter schools in Michigan were independently managed, 8 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 62 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 11 higher education institutions had authorized 243 public charter schools (82 percent of the state’s total number of public charters), and 28 local school districts, intermediate school districts, and educational service agencies had authorized 54 public charter schools (18 percent).
- There were two virtual public charter schools in Michigan in 2012–13, serving 1,742 students (2 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

in the state, most notably *Making School Choice Work* by the Center for Reinventing Public Education (CRPE). This report found that many parents in Detroit face barriers that limit their ability to choose a school for their child, including inadequate information, lack of convenient transportation, and uneven school quality. These issues crossed the district and charter sectors.

We encourage Michigan to enact policies to increase the impact of the success that is happening in the state, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities and increasing operational autonomy of charters. We also encourage the state to tackle the challenges raised by CRPE by addressing the information and transportation challenges in Detroit (and other communities where they exist), prohibiting schools facing closures from switching authorizers to stay open, preventing operators with poorly performing schools from opening more charters, and holding authorizers accountable.

## Recommendations

While Michigan’s law is ranked #18, the state of its movement is ranked #3. It has likely achieved these results due, in part, to the fact that the state has an active Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers that has adopted a common set of comprehensive oversight and accountability standards that are not always required by the state’s public charter school law.

Notwithstanding the several positive aspects of the state’s movement, we acknowledge recent reports that have highlighted challenges



# Michigan

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		297		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		8				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		136,859		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		9				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	32	72	-40			
		Black	54	15	39			
		Hispanic	8	6	2			
		Asian	3	3	0			
		Total minority	68	28	40			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	71	46	25	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	71	46	25			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	50	20	30	2	2	4
		Suburb	30	34	-4			
		Town	5	14	-9			
		Rural	15	33	-18			
		Total non-suburban	70	66	4			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	8				3	1	3
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	11		Average Annual Open Rate	8%	3	3	9
	2010-11	13						
	2011-12	19						
	2012-13	32						
	2013-14	33						
	Total Number	108						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	3		Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	3	3	12
	2009-10	12						
	2010-11	3						
	2011-12	12						
	2012-13	12						
	Total Number	42						

# Michigan

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	55	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	23			
		Year Round Calendar	9			
		Independent Study	21			
		School-to-Work	5			
		Higher Education Courses	18			
		Average	22			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	43		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	43		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	74	31		
		CMOs	18	8		
		EMOs	149	62		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	28	54	2	18
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	11	243	22	82
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		1,742		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		2		
		Number of virtual charter schools		2		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		1		

# Minnesota

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**16**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**56**

## Law Summary

Minnesota enacted the nation's first public charter school law in 1991. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #1 out of 43, in part due to a major overhaul of its public charter school law in 2009. Minnesota's law does not contain caps on charter school growth, includes multiple authorizers, and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability. However, it provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Minnesota's public charter school movement ranked #16 out of 26, scoring 56 points out of 116.

### Minnesota scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Eighty-three percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 76 percent of traditional public schools.
- Twenty-six public charters closed in Minnesota between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 3 percent average annual closure rate.

### Minnesota scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Twenty-three public charters opened in Minnesota between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 3 percent average annual open rate.

- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (seven fewer days).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Minnesota:

- Seven percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (25 percentage points more).
- Public charter schools in Minnesota served a significantly higher percentage of students in special populations when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (33 percentage points more). More specifically, they served higher percentages of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch (20 percentage points more) and English learners (13 percentage points more) and the same percentage of special education students.
- Four communities in Minnesota had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.

# Minnesota

- An average of 20 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 more days).
- Ninety-nine percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 1 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 99 percent of the public charter schools in Minnesota were independently managed, 1 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 1 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, seven local school boards had authorized 10 public charter schools (7 percent of the state's total number of public charter schools), eight higher education institutions had authorized 26 public charter schools (17 percent), and 13 nonprofit organizations had authorized 114 public charter schools (76 percent).

- There were five virtual public charter schools in Minnesota in 2012–13, serving 914 students (2 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Minnesota has a relatively notable population of public charter schools and a relatively small population of public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading but not math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

While Minnesota's public charter school law was ranked #1, the state of its movement was ranked #16, showing that there is sometimes a time lag between policy changes and the impact of those changes. Minnesota overhauled its law in 2009 and has been implementing these major changes since that time. For example, the 2009 legislation required all authorizers to be approved by the state department of education and reviewed every five years. Since then, the number of authorizers in the state has dropped from 48 to 27. In addition, 26 public charter schools closed between the 2008–09 and 2012–13 school years. In 2015, the state department of education will be reviewing the first cohort of authorizers approved under this legislation. We are optimistic that the overhaul to the state's public

charter school law in 2009 will yield stronger achievement results as more current data become available.

It is also important to note that Minnesota has developed a number of innovative charters, including the first public Montessori junior-senior high school in the state and one of the few public Montessori junior-senior high schools in the country, a number of "teacher-led" schools in which teachers who work in the school are a majority of the board members (similar to a farmer's cooperative), and schools established by families of students with special needs.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters. While the state provides charters with the same per-pupil allocation as other states and \$1,314 per pupil for building expenses, significant gaps remain. We also encourage the state to increase the impact of the state's movement by promoting the creation of innovative new schools, encouraging the replication and expansion of existing successful public charter schools, and ensuring that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing public charter schools.

# Minnesota

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		149		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		7				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		136,859		1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	49	74	-25			
		Black	27	10	17			
		Hispanic	8	7	1			
		Asian	14	7	7			
		Total minority	51	26	25			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status		57		2	2	4
		Special education status		13				
		English language learner status		20				
		Total special student populations		77				
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City		50		3	2	6
		Suburb		17				
		Town		9				
		Rural		24				
		Total non-suburban		83				
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	4				2	1	2
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	5		Average Annual Open Rate	3%	1	3	3
	2010-11	1						
	2011-12	6						
	2012-13	4						
	2013-14	7						
	Total Number	23						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	4		Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	4	3	12
	2009-10	5						
	2010-11	7						
	2011-12	4						
	2012-13	6						
	Total Number	26						

# Minnesota

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	27	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	20			
		Year Round Calendar	10			
		Independent Study	22			
		School-to-Work	13			
		Higher Education Courses	20			
		Average	20			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14		2	4	8
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7		1	4	4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	99	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		1
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	147	99		
		CMOs	1	1		
		EMOs	1	1		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	7	10	1	7
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	8	26	3	17
		NFPs	13	114	9	76
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			914	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			2	
		Number of virtual charter schools			5	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			3	





# Mississippi

*This state was not ranked.*

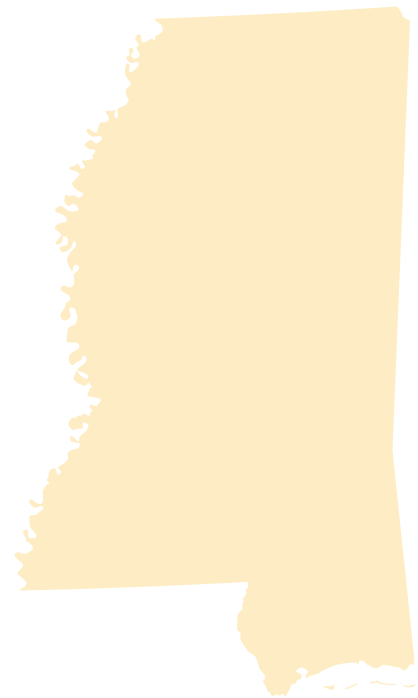
Mississippi enacted its public charter school law in 2010. In our annual rankings of state charter school laws in 2011, 2012, and 2013, it was ranked as the weakest law in the country. In 2013, Mississippi enacted a significant overhaul of its law. In our most recent rankings of state public charter school laws, Mississippi's law was ranked #14 out of 43.

Under its previous public charter school law, the state allowed only up to 12 chronically low-performing schools to convert to charter status; provided weak autonomy, accountability, and funding; and required applicants to apply to the state board of education. No public charter schools opened under this law.

Under its new public charter school law, the state allows up to 15 startups and conversions per year; provides strong autonomy, accountability, and operational and categorical funding; and created a new state authorizer to be the state's sole authorizing entity. The state's first public charter schools are expected to open in fall 2015.

Potential areas of improvement in Mississippi's law include addressing open enrollment, clarifying teacher certification requirements, providing charter teachers with access to the state retirement system, providing applicants in all districts with direct access to the state authorizer, and providing equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Mississippi's charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Mississippi's public charter school movement in this year's report.



# Missouri

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**15**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**57**

## Law Summary

Missouri enacted its public charter school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #26 out of 43. Missouri's law is largely cap-free and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters. However, it includes multiple authorizing options in some districts but not others and provides inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Missouri's public charter school movement ranked #15 out of 26, scoring 57 points out of 116.

### Missouri scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Twenty-one public charters opened in Missouri between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an 11 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 30 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (22 more days).

### Missouri scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 2 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.

- Only 2 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Only two communities in Missouri had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Missouri:

- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students than traditional public schools in 2012–13 (60 percentage points more).
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools in 2012–13 (33 percentage points more).
- During 2011–12, 100 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 80 percent of traditional public schools.
- Eleven public charter schools closed in Missouri between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 6 percent average annual closure rate.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 more days).

# Missouri

- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 78 percent of the public charter schools in Missouri were independently managed, 8 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 14 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, one local school board had authorized one public charter school (3 percent of the state's total number of public charters), and 11 higher educational institutions had authorized 37 public charter schools (97 percent).
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Missouri in 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Missouri has small proportions of public charter schools and public charter school students. However, such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading and math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

We encourage Missouri to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding

and facilities. We also encourage the state to promote the expansion of public charter schools beyond the small number of districts in which they are operating.





# Missouri

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		38	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		2				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		19,439	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		2				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	14	75	-61			
		Black	69	16	53			
		Hispanic	13	5	8			
		Asian	2	2	0			
		Total minority	86	26	60			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	81	48	33	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	81	48	33			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	98	14	84	2	2	4
		Suburb	0	20	-20			
		Town	0	18	-18			
		Rural	2	47	-45			
		Total non-suburban	100	80	20			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	2				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	6	Average Annual Open Rate	11%	3	3	6	
	2010-11	5						
	2011-12	6						
	2012-13	2						
	2013-14	2						
	Total Number	21						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	6%	2	3	6	
	2009-10	2						
	2010-11	1						
	2011-12	5						
	2012-13	2						
	Total Number	11						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	75	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	53			
		Year Round Calendar	18			
		Independent Study	12			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	25			
		Average	30			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	14		2	4	8
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	22		3	4	12
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	28	78		
		CMOs	3	8		
		EMOs	5	14		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	1	1	1	3
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	11	37	3	97
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# Nevada

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**26**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**32**

## Law Summary

Nevada enacted its public charter school law in 1997. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #13 out of 43. Nevada does not have a cap on charter growth and allows multiple authorizing entities. Over the past few years, Nevada has taken steps to improve its law by creating an independent state authorizer, strengthening accountability, and providing facilities support. Still, the law provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Nevada's public charter school movement ranked #26 out of 26, scoring 32 points out of 116.

### Nevada scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- During 2011–12, 86 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 76 percent of traditional public schools.
- Thirteen public charters opened in Nevada between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 9 percent average annual open rate.
- Four public charter schools closed in Nevada between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 3 percent average annual closure rate.

### Nevada scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Public charter schools in Nevada served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students than traditional public schools during 2012–13 (16 percentage points less).
- Public charter schools in Nevada served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools during 2012–13 (30 percentage points less).
- No communities in Nevada had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- An average of 14 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (108 fewer days in reading and 137 fewer days in math).

# Nevada

## **In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Nevada:**

- One hundred percent of the public charter schools in Nevada were startups in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 82 percent of the public charter schools in Nevada were independently operated, and 19 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. None were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.
- As of 2013–14, three local school boards had authorized 16 public charter schools (47 percent of the state’s total number of public charters), and the independent state charter board had authorized 18 public charters (53 percent).
- There were eight virtual public charter schools in Nevada in 2012–13, serving 10,414 students (47 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## **Recommendations**

Nevada has small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

Recognizing these challenges in the movement, Nevada charter school supporters pressed the state to enact significant changes to the public charter school law in 2013, primarily as it relates to charter school accountability. We are optimistic that these changes will yield stronger achievement results as more current data become available.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state further change its law to provide more operational autonomy and more equitable funding to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools and to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters.



# Nevada

Indicator	Year	Data			Rating	Weight	Total Score		
<b>Growth Indicators</b>									
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		34	1	3	3		
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		5					
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		26,022	1	3	3		
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5					
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	0	2	0	
		White	53	36	17				
		Black	16	9	7				
		Hispanic	20	41	-21				
		Asian	5	6	-1				
		Total minority	48	64	-16				
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status		27	57	-30	0	2	0
		Special education status		N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status		N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations		27	57	-30			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	62	35	27	3	2	6	
		Suburb	14	24	-10				
		Town	7	10	-3				
		Rural	17	31	-14				
		Total non-suburban	86	76	10				
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			0	1	0		
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	3		Average Annual Open Rate	9%	3	3	9	
	2010-11	0							
	2011-12	6							
	2012-13	2							
	2013-14	2							
	Total Number	13							
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0		Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	3	3	9	
	2009-10	1							
	2010-11	1							
	2011-12	2							
	2012-13	0							
	Total Number	4							

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	57	1	2	2
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	7			
		Year Round Calendar	7			
		Independent Study	7			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	7			
		Average	14			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-108		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-137		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	22	82		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	5	19		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	3	16	5	47
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	18	18	53
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			10,414	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			47	
		Number of virtual charter schools			8	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			24	

# New Hampshire

*This state was not ranked.*

New Hampshire enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, New Hampshire's law was ranked #30 out of 43. While the law contains a cap that allows for adequate growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to public charter schools, the state's authorizing options (local school districts and the state board of education) have been unreliable, and the law provides inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. New Hampshire's charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank New Hampshire's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

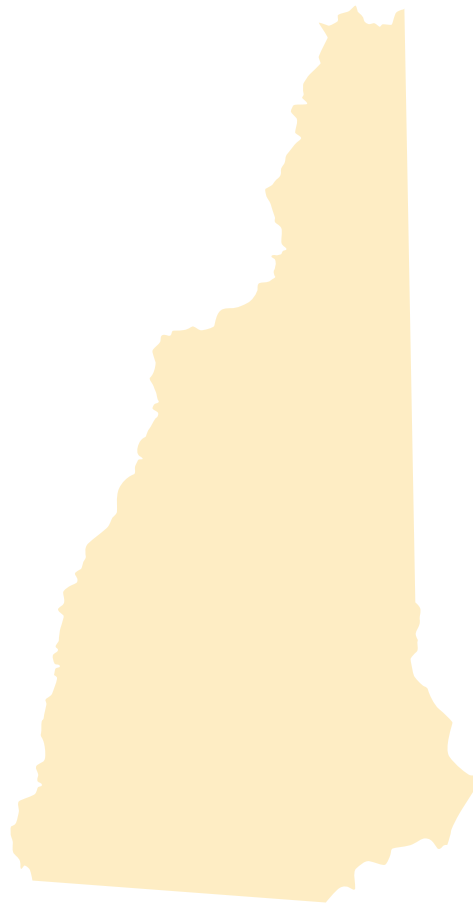
- In 2013–14, there were 19 public charter schools and 2,096 public charter school students in New Hampshire, constituting 4 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in New Hampshire served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (2 percentage points more) but a smaller percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (15 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Fifty-nine percent of the state's public charter schools were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 78 percent of traditional public schools.
- Ten new public charter schools opened in New Hampshire between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an average annual open rate of 15 percent.
- One public charter school closed in New Hampshire between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 2 percent.
- An average of 27 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups during 2012–13.

# New Hampshire

- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were independently managed during 2010–11, meaning none of them were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization or a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, one local school district had authorized one school (5 percent of the state's total number of public charter schools) and the state board of education had authorized 18 schools (95 percent).
- There were two virtual public charter schools in New Hampshire in 2012–13, serving 129 students (7 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

New Hampshire has small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students and nonsuburban students than traditional public schools.



# New Hampshire

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		19	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		4	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		2,096	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		1	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	86	89	-3
		Black	1	2	-1
		Hispanic	2	5	-3
		Asian	9	3	6
		Total minority	14	12	2
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	10	25	-15
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	10	25	-15
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	5	8	-3
		Suburb	41	22	19
		Town	45	16	29
		Rural	9	53	-44
		Total non-suburban	59	78	-19
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	1	Average Annual Open Rate	15%	
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	6			
	2013-14	2			
	Total Number	10			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	2%	
	2009-10	1			
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	1			

# New Hampshire

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	0			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	0			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	80			
		School-to-Work	40			
		Higher Education Courses	40			
		Average	27			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	10	100		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	1	1	1	5
		SEAs	1	18	18	95
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			129	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			7	
		Number of virtual charter schools			2	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			12	

# New Jersey

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

4

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

76

## Law Summary

New Jersey's public charter school law was enacted in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #32 out of 43. New Jersey's law does not contain caps on charter school growth and provides a fair amount of accountability, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

New Jersey's public charter school movement ranked #4 out of 26, scoring 76 points out of 116.

### New Jersey scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Thirty-eight public charters opened in New Jersey between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 10 percent average annual open rate.
- Twelve public charters closed in New Jersey between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 3 percent average annual closure rate.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited significantly higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (43 more days in reading and 58 more days in math).

### New Jersey scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 3 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.

- Only 2 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Only three communities in New Jersey had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in New Jersey:

- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (40 percentage points more).
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (34 percentage points more).
- Forty-seven percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 21 percent of traditional public schools in 2011–12.
- An average of 19 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups during 2012–13.

# New Jersey

- In 2010–11, 97 percent of the public charter schools in New Jersey were independently managed, and 3 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization. None were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- The only authorizer in New Jersey is the state department of education. As of 2013–14, the state department of education had authorized 87 public charter schools.
- There were no virtual public charter schools in New Jersey in 2012–13.

## Recommendations

New Jersey's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results in spite of a relatively weak law. However, its charter school movement is still relatively small. It has likely achieved these results through a combination of its one authorizer implementing solid practices that are not required by the state's public charter school law and a select number of high-performing charters smartly replicating and expanding. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, increasing operational autonomy, and expanding authorizing options.





# New Jersey

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		87	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		3				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		32,260	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		2				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	9	51	-42			
		Black	55	15	40			
		Hispanic	27	23	4			
		Asian	4	9	-5			
		Total minority	88	48	40			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	70	36	34	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	70	36	34			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	40	7	33	2	2	4
		Suburb	53	79	-26			
		Town	0	3	-3			
		Rural	7	11	-4			
		Total non-suburban	47	21	26			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	3				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	6	Average Annual Open Rate	10%	3	3	9	
	2010-11	7						
	2011-12	10						
	2012-13	9						
	2013-14	6						
	Total Number	38						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	4	3	12	
	2009-10	2						
	2010-11	2						
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	5						
	Total Number	12						

# New Jersey

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	60	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	36			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	8			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	12			
		Average	19			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	43		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	58		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	71	97		
		CMOs	2	3		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	1	87	87	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# New Mexico

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**21**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**44**

## Law Summary

New Mexico enacted its public charter school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #12 out of 43. New Mexico's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of accountability but contains some caps on charter school growth and provides insufficient autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

New Mexico's public charter school movement ranked #21 out of 26, scoring 44 points out of 116.

### New Mexico scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Eleven percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- An average of 35 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

### New Mexico scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- The state's public charter schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (7 percentage points less).
- In 2011–12, public charter schools in New Mexico served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools (37 percentage points less).

- Only two communities in New Mexico had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth in math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (29 fewer days), while performing the same in reading.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in New Mexico:

- Six percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2012–13.
- Eighty-nine percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 92 percent of traditional public schools.
- Thirty-two public charters opened in New Mexico between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an 8 percent average annual open rate.
- Four public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.
- Ninety-nine percent of public charter schools in New Mexico were startups, and 1 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# New Mexico

- In 2010–11, 99 percent of the public charter schools in New Mexico were independently managed, and 1 percent was associated with a nonprofit charter management organization. None were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 18 local school boards had authorized 42 public charter schools (44 percent of the state’s total number of public charter schools), and the state’s public education commission had authorized 53 public charter schools (56 percent).
- There was one virtual public charter school in New Mexico in 2012–13, serving 498 students (3 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

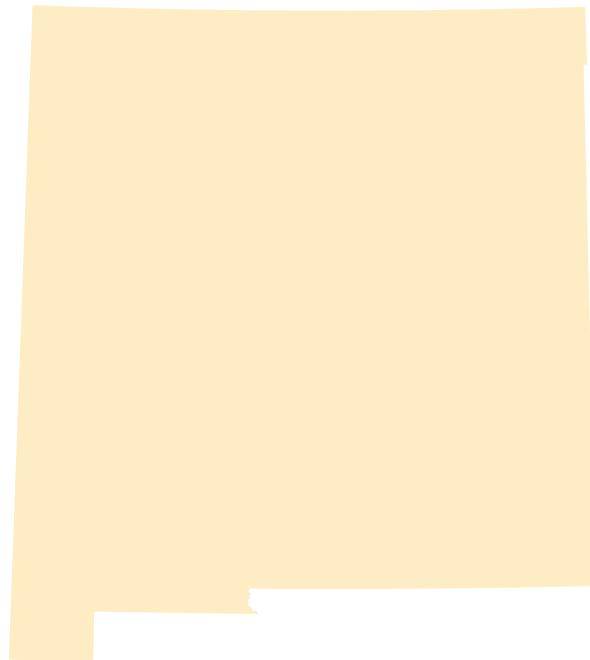
## Recommendations

New Mexico has notable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing as well in reading as their peers in traditional public schools but not as well in math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

Recognizing these strengths and weaknesses in the movement, New Mexico charter school supporters pressed the state to enact significant changes to the public charter school

law in 2011, primarily related to charter school accountability. We are optimistic that these changes will yield stronger achievement results as more current data become available.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to provide more operational autonomy and more equitable funding to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools and to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters.



# New Mexico

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools	95	3	3	9		
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	11					
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students	21,376	2	3	6		
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	6					
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	1	2	2
		White	33	26	7			
		Black	3	2	1			
		Hispanic	55	60	-5			
		Asian	1	1	0			
		Total minority	67	74	-7			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2011-12	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	33	70	-37	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	33	70	-37			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	55	21	34	2	2	4
		Suburb	11	8	3			
		Town	13	29	-16			
		Rural	21	41	-20			
		Total non-suburban	89	92	-3			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	2			1	1	1	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	6	Average Annual Open Rate	8%	2	3	6	
	2010-11	9						
	2011-12	3						
	2012-13	11						
	2013-14	3						
	Total Number	32						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	2	3	6	
	2009-10	0						
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	2						
	Total Number	4						

# New Mexico

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	50	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	32			
		Year Round Calendar	12			
		Independent Study	32			
		School-to-Work	27			
		Higher Education Courses	59			
		Average	35			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	0		1	4	4
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	99	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		1
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	80	99		
		CMOs	1	1		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	18	42	2	44
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	53	53	56
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			498	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			3	
		Number of virtual charter schools			1	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			1	

# New York

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

5

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

75

## Law Summary

New York enacted its public charter school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #7 out of 43. New York's law provides multiple authorizers and a fair amount of autonomy and accountability but contains a cap of 460 startup public charter schools and provides inequitable funding.

## Health of the Movement Summary

New York's public charter school movement ranked #5 out of 26, scoring 75 points out of 116.

### New York scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- One hundred twenty-seven public charters opened in New York between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 14 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 30 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited significantly higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (36 more days in reading and 79 more days in math).

### New York scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.

- Only 3 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Only two communities in New York had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters during 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in New York:

- Public charter schools in New York served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (43 percentage points more).
- Public charter schools in New York served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2011–12 (27 percentage points more).
- Ninety-six percent of public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 68 percent of traditional public schools.
- Nine public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.
- Ninety-seven percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 3 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# New York

- In 2010–11, 60 percent of the public charter schools in New York were independently managed, 29 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 11 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, two local school districts had authorized 72 public charter schools (31 percent of the state’s total number of public charters), the state board of regents had authorized 54 charters (23 percent), and one higher education institution had authorized 107 charters (46 percent).
- There were no virtual public charter schools in New York during 2012–13.



## Recommendations

New York has relatively small percentages of public charter schools and public charter school students. However, such students, on average, are performing better than their peers in traditional public schools in reading and math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including lifting its caps on charter school growth and providing more equitable funding and expanded facilities support to charters.



# New York

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		233		1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		5				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		92,043		1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	7	50	-43			
		Black	60	16	44			
		Hispanic	30	24	6			
		Asian	2	9	-7			
		Total minority	94	51	43			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2011-12	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	75	48	27	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	75	48	27			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	94	41	53	2	2	4
		Suburb	4	32	-28			
		Town	0	9	-9			
		Rural	2	18	-16			
		Total non-suburban	96	68	28			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	2				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	25		Average Annual Open Rate	14%	4	3	12
	2010-11	32						
	2011-12	16						
	2012-13	28						
	2013-14	26						
	Total Number	127						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0		Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	2	3	6
	2009-10	3						
	2010-11	2						
	2011-12	2						
	2012-13	2						
	Total Number	9						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	93	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	57			
		Year Round Calendar	7			
		Independent Study	5			
		School-to-Work	11			
		Higher Education Courses	5			
		Average	30			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	36		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	79		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	97	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		3
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	102	60		
		CMOs	49	29		
		EMOs	19	11		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	2	72	36	31
		SEAs	1	54	54	23
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	1	107	107	46
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# North Carolina

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**22**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**42**

## Law Summary

North Carolina enacted its public charter school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #19 out of 43. North Carolina's law does not cap charter school growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy and accountability to charters, but it includes only a single authorizing path and provides inequitable funding.

## Health of the Movement Summary

North Carolina's public charter school movement ranked #22 out of 26, scoring 42 points out of 116.

### North Carolina scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth in reading between 2007–08 and 2010–11 when compared to traditional public school students (22 more days).

### North Carolina scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students, especially Hispanic students, when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13 (8 percentage points less overall and 8 percentage points less for Hispanic students).

- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction reports that public charter schools served a lower percentage of free- and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools in 2010–11 (31 percentage points less). However, according to the North Carolina Public Charter School Association, these numbers are skewed because in that year multiple public charter schools in North Carolina served students eligible for the federal lunch program but did not participate in the actual program. As a result, the percentage of public charter school students eligible for and served free- and reduced-price lunch was higher than the percentage actually reported to the state. In 2014, some North Carolina charter schools are serving free- and reduced-price lunches under the federal lunch program, while numerous others continue to serve this same population at their own expense, using no federal money.
- Only three communities in North Carolina had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- Four public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2013–14, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth in math between 2007–08 and 2010–11 when compared to traditional public school students (seven fewer days).

# North Carolina

**In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in North Carolina:**

- Ninety percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 88 percent of traditional public schools.
- Thirty-four public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 5 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 20 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Ninety-nine percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 1 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 92 percent of the public charter schools in North Carolina were independently managed, 3 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 5 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, the state board of education had authorized all of the state's public charter schools (127).

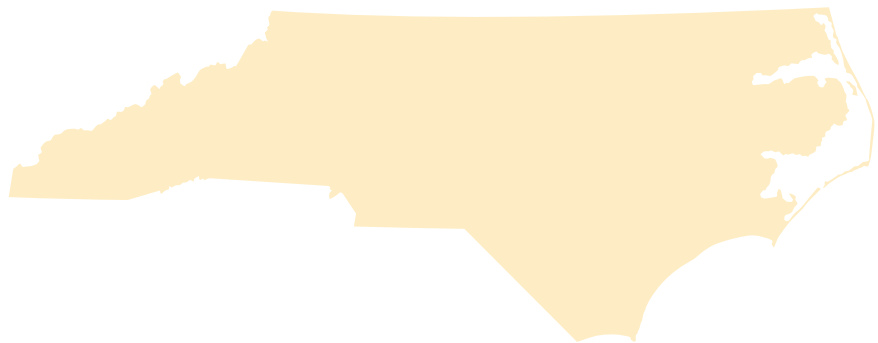
- There were zero virtual public charter schools in North Carolina in 2012–13.

## Recommendations

North Carolina has relatively small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. Such students, on average, are performing better their peers in traditional public schools in reading but not math, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

More recent data from the state's accountability system provide some helpful nuances. According to 2012–13 state test results, 85 percent of charters met or exceeded growth versus 71 percent of district schools. Forty percent of public charter school students in grades 3–8 were proficient in math and reading, while only 32 percent of traditional public school students earned proficiency.

With the state's longstanding cap lifted in 2011, we expect to see growth in the state's public charter schools for the foreseeable future. However, we encourage the state to further strengthen its accountability policies, increase its investment in the state's authorizing capacity, and provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving a lower percentage of Hispanic students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools and ensure that chronically low-performing public charter schools are closed.



# North Carolina

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		127	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		5				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		58,387	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		4				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	1	2	2
		White	61	52	9			
		Black	27	26	1			
		Hispanic	6	14	-8			
		Asian	3	3	0			
		Total minority	40	48	-8			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2010-11	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	20	51	-31	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	20	51	-31			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	42	25	17	2	2	4
		Suburb	10	12	-2			
		Town	17	13	4			
		Rural	31	50	-19			
		Total non-suburban	90	88	2			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	3				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0		Average Annual Open Rate	5%	2	3	6
	2010-11	3						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	8						
	2013-14	22						
	Total Number	34						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1		Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	1	3	3
	2009-10	0						
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	2						
	Total Number	4						

# North Carolina

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	25	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	15			
		Year Round Calendar	18			
		Independent Study	23			
		School-to-Work	13			
		Higher Education Courses	25			
		Average	20			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	22		3	4	12
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-7		1	4	4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	99	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		1
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	91	92		
		CMOs	3	3		
		EMOs	5	5		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	1	127	127	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# Ohio

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**17**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**56**

## Law Summary

Ohio enacted its public charter school law in 1997. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #28 out of 43. While Ohio's law allows multiple authorizing entities, it allows only brick-and-mortar startup public charter schools in about 10 percent of the state's school districts and provides insufficient autonomy and accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Ohio's public charter school movement ranked #17 out of 26, scoring 56 points out of 116.

### Ohio scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Eleven percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Eighty-four percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas during 2011–12 as compared to 65 percent of traditional public schools.
- Seven communities in Ohio had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- One hundred sixty-one public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Ohio, a 9 percent average annual open rate.
- Seventy-eight public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 5 percent average annual closure rate.

- An average of 28 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

### Ohio scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (14 fewer days in reading and 43 fewer days in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Ohio:

- Seven percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- Ohio's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students as compared to the traditional public schools in 2012–13 (33 percentage points more).
- Public charter schools in Ohio served a significantly higher percentage of students in special populations during 2012–13 (33 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Eighty-four percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 16 percent were conversions in 2012–13.

- In 2010–11, 50 percent of the public charter schools in Ohio were independently managed, 20 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 30 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 60 local school boards had authorized 179 public charter schools (45 percent of the state’s total number of public charter schools), the state board of education had authorized 16 public charters (4 percent), three higher education institutions had authorized 56 public charters (14 percent), and six nonprofit organizations had authorized 149 public charters (37 percent).
- There were 23 virtual public charter schools in Ohio in 2012–13, serving 38,519 students (32 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Ohio has notable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. However, such students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to further

strengthen its accountability policies by improving the charter school approval process, charter school oversight, and the charter school renewal and closure process and provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters. We also encourage the state to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters and to shut down low-performing authorizers.





# Ohio

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		400		3	3	9
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		11				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		123,778		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		7				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	42	76	-34			
		Black	45	14	31			
		Hispanic	6	4	2			
		Asian	1	2	-1			
		Total minority	57	24	33			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	74	43	31	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	16	14	2			
		Total special student populations	90	57	33			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	72	17	55	3	2	6
		Suburb	16	35	-19			
		Town	7	15	-8			
		Rural	5	33	-28			
		Total non-suburban	84	65	19			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	7				3	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	14		Average Annual Open Rate	9%	3	3	9
	2010-11	28						
	2011-12	30						
	2012-13	34						
	2013-14	45						
	Total Number	161						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	19		Average Annual Closure Rate	5%	3	3	9
	2009-10	19						
	2010-11	13						
	2011-12	8						
	2012-13	19						
	Total Number	78						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	53	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	38			
		Year Round Calendar	13			
		Independent Study	34			
		School-to-Work	17			
		Higher Education Courses	15			
		Average	28			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-14		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	43		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	84	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		16
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	171	50		
		CMOs	68	20		
		EMOs	101	30		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	60	179	3	45
		SEAs	1	16	16	4
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	3	56	19	14
		NFPs	6	149	25	37
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students		38,519		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		32		
		Number of virtual charter schools		23		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		6		

# Oklahoma

*This state was not ranked.*

Oklahoma enacted its public charter school law in 1999. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #36 out of 43. While the law provides a fair amount of autonomy to public charter schools and includes multiple authorizers, it allows charters only in approximately 4 percent of the state's school districts and provides insufficient accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Oklahoma's movement met the first condition, Oklahoma was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Oklahoma's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 25 public charter schools and 9,751 public charter school students in Oklahoma, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and

1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.

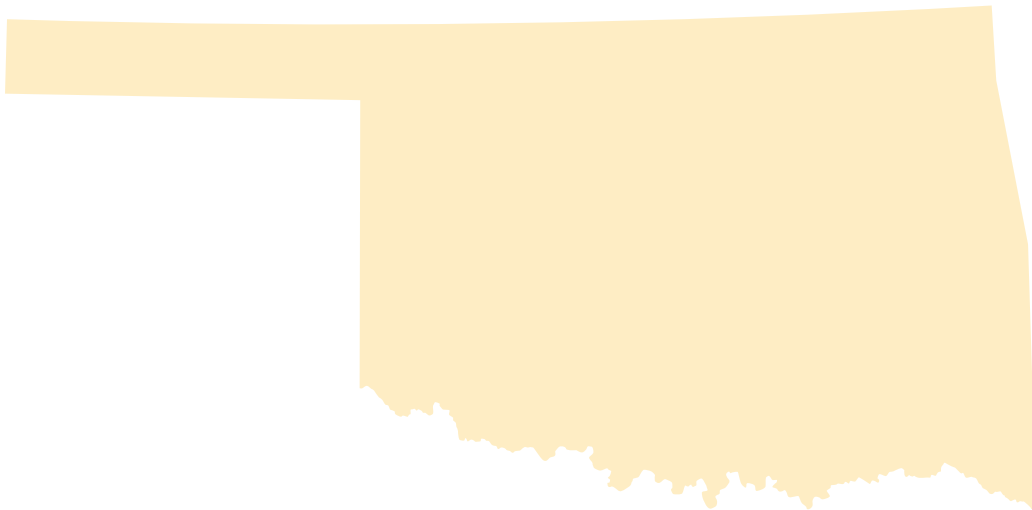
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in Oklahoma served more racial and ethnic minority students (12 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2011–12, 95 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared with 89 percent of traditional public schools.
- There was one community in the state with more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- Ten new public charter schools opened in Oklahoma between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an average annual open rate of 9 percent.
- Two public charter schools closed in Oklahoma between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 2 percent.
- An average of 41 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Eighty-three percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 17 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# Oklahoma

- In 2010–11, 94 percent of the state’s public charter schools were independently managed, and 6 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization. No public charter schools were associated with a for-profit educational management organization that year.
- As of 2013–14, four local school districts had authorized 18 public charter schools (72 percent of the state’s total number of public charter schools), two higher educational institutions had authorized six public charter schools (24 percent), and one noneducational governmental entity had authorized one charter school (4 percent).
- There were two virtual public charter schools in Oklahoma during 2012–13 serving 5,023 students (42 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Oklahoma has small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to expand public charter schools statewide, strengthen accountability, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



# Oklahoma

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Growth Indicators</b>						
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		25		
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		1		
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		9,751		
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		1		
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional		Difference
		White	41	53		-12
		Black	21	9		12
		Hispanic	26	14		12
		Asian	1	2		-1
		Total minority	59	47		12
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	N/A	N/A		N/A
		Special education status	N/A	N/A		N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A		N/A
		Total special student populations	N/A	N/A		N/A
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	81	14		67
		Suburb	5	11		-6
		Town	0	21	-21	
		Rural	14	55	-41	
		Total non-suburban	95	89	6	
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	1				
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	2	Average Annual Open Rate	9%		
	2010-11	0				
	2011-12	3				
	2012-13	3				
	2013-14	2				
	Total Number	10				
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	2%		
	2009-10	0				
	2010-11	0				
	2011-12	1				
	2012-13	1				
	Total Number	2				

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	100			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	43			
		Year Round Calendar	14			
		Independent Study	14			
		School-to-Work	29			
		Higher Education Courses	43			
		Average	41			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	83	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		17
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	17	94		
		CMOs	1	6		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	4	18	5	72
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	1	1	1	4
		HEIs	2	6	3	24
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			5,203	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			42	
		Number of virtual charter schools			2	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			8	

# Oregon

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**25**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**35**

## Law Summary

Oregon enacted its public charter school law in 1999. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #27 out of 43. The law does not contain a cap on charter school growth and provides a fair amount of autonomy, but it also includes limited authorizing options, insufficient accountability, and inadequate funding.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Oregon's public charter school movement ranked #25 out of 26, scoring 35 points out of 116.

### Oregon scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Fifty-one public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Oregon, a 9 percent average annual open rate.
- Fourteen public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13 in Oregon, a 3 percent average annual closure rate.

### Oregon scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (16 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools during 2012–13.

- Public charter schools in Oregon served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (32 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools during 2012–13.
- There were no communities in the state with more than 10 percent of public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (22 days less in reading and 50 days less in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Oregon:

- Six percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Eighty-four percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 82 percent of traditional public schools.
- An average of 19 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Eighty-five percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 15 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# Oregon

- In 2010–11, 93 percent of the public charter schools in Oregon were independently managed, 6 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 2 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- Oregon law provides that local school boards are the only authorizers of first resort. If a local school board denies a proposal, an applicant may appeal the decision of the local school board to the state board of education or submit a proposal to an institution of higher education. If one of these entities approves the application, it becomes the authorizer. As of 2013–14, 75 local school boards had approved 120 public charter schools (97 percent of the state’s public charter schools), and the state board of education had authorized four public charter schools (3 percent).
- There were 12 virtual public charter schools in Oregon in 2012–13, educating 6,637 students (25 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to provide additional authorizing options, strengthen accountability, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students and to ensure that authorizers are closing chronically low-performing charters.

## Recommendations

Oregon has a notable population of public charter schools and a small population of public charter school students. Such students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is





# Oregon

Indicator	Year	Data			Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		124	2	3	6	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		6				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		28,581	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	0	2	0
		White	79	64	15			
		Black	2	2	0			
		Hispanic	9	22	-13			
		Asian	2	5	-3			
		Total minority	20	36	-16			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	21	53	-32	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	21	53	-32			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	22	26	-4	0	2	0
		Suburb	16	18	-2			
		Town	19	27	-8			
		Rural	43	28	15			
		Total non-suburban	84	82	2			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			0	1	0	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	18	Average Annual Open Rate	9%	3	3	9	
	2010-11	14						
	2011-12	9						
	2012-13	8						
	2013-14	2						
	Total Number	51						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	3	Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	3	3	9	
	2009-10	8						
	2010-11	2						
	2011-12	0						
	2012-13	1						
	Total Number	14						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	26	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	8			
		Year Round Calendar	2			
		Independent Study	34			
		School-to-Work	12			
		Higher Education Courses	32			
		Average	19			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-22		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-50		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	85	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		15
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	100	93		
		CMOs	6	6		
		EMOs	2	2		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	75	120	2	97
		SEAs	1	4	4	3
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			6,637	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			25	
		Number of virtual charter schools			12	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			11	

# Pennsylvania

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**23**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**42**

## Law Summary

Pennsylvania enacted its public charter school law in 1997. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #24 out of 43. While the law does not contain a cap on charter school growth and provides adequate autonomy to charters, it primarily allows local school district authorizers and provides insufficient accountability and inadequate funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Pennsylvania's public charter school movement ranked #23 out of 26, scoring 42 points out of 116.

### Pennsylvania scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Seventy-eight percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 59 percent of traditional public schools.
- An average of 27 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

### Pennsylvania scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Only three communities in the state had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters in 2012–13.

- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth in both reading and math when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 in Pennsylvania (29 days less in reading and 50 days less in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Pennsylvania:

- Seven percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (33 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- In 2011–12, public charter schools in Pennsylvania served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students when compared with traditional public schools (5 percentage points less).
- Fifty-nine public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Pennsylvania, an 8 percent average annual open rate.
- Nine public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13 in Pennsylvania, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.

# Pennsylvania

- Ninety-three percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 7 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- All public charter schools in Pennsylvania must be organized as nonprofits. In 2010–11, 72 percent of these schools were independently managed, 16 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, and 12 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- Pennsylvania law provides the following potential authorizers: local school boards, two or more local boards for regional charters, and the state department of education for virtual public charter schools. As of 2013–14, 48 local school boards had authorized 162 public charter schools (92 percent of the state's public charter schools), and the state department of education had authorized 14 virtual public charter schools (8 percent).
- There were 16 virtual public charter schools in Pennsylvania in 2012–13, serving 34,694 students (29 percent of the state's public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Pennsylvania has a small population of public charter schools but a notable population of public charter school students. While there are many successful public

charter schools in Pennsylvania, public charter school students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

Notably, performance varies significantly between brick-and-mortar public charter schools and virtual public charter schools within this data set. Between 2007–08 and 2010–11, 60 percent of brick-and-mortar public charter schools performed with similar or better success than the traditional public schools in reading, and 53 percent of brick-and-mortar public charter schools performed with similar or better success in math compared to traditional public schools. However, 100 percent of virtual public charter schools performed worse than their traditional public school counterparts in both reading and math.

More recent and comprehensive data from the state's new School Performance Profile (SPP) includes multiple metrics to assess the performance of all public schools and allows for an "apples-to-apples" comparison of results from charter schools directly with the traditional schools from which the charters are drawing their students. The SPP data shows brick and mortar charters significantly outperforming their feeder school counterparts. In Philadelphia, for

example, the SPP average in 2012–13 for traditional public schools (including magnet schools) was 57, while the average for brick-and-mortar public charter schools was 65. However, virtual schools still lag behind traditional schools.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to strengthen the competency of current authorizers, create additional high-quality authorizing options, strengthen its accountability policies, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.

# Pennsylvania

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		176	1	3	3	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		5				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		128,701	2	3	6	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		7				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	37	71	-34			
		Black	43	13	30			
		Hispanic	14	9	5			
		Asian	3	3	0			
		Total minority	63	30	33			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2011-12	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	35	40	-5	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	35	40	-5			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	67	16	51	3	2	6
		Suburb	22	41	-19			
		Town	4	13	-9			
		Rural	7	30	-23			
		Total non-suburban	78	59	19			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	3				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	9	Average Annual Open Rate	8%	2	3	6	
	2010-11	12						
	2011-12	18						
	2012-13	14						
	2013-14	6						
	Total Number	59						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	2	Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	2	3	6	
	2009-10	1						
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	1						
	2012-13	5						
	Total Number	9						

# Pennsylvania

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	57	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	39			
		Year Round Calendar	10			
		Independent Study	26			
		School-to-Work	10			
		Higher Education Courses	22			
		Average	27			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-29		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-50		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	93	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		7
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	104	72		
		CMOs	23	16		
		EMOs	18	12		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	48	162	3	92
		SEAs	1	14	14	8
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			34,694	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			29	
		Number of virtual charter schools			16	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			9	

# Rhode Island

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**10**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**70**

## Law Summary

Rhode Island enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #34 out of 43. The law provides a fair amount of accountability for charters but caps charter growth, allows only one authorizing option, and provides inadequate autonomy and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Rhode Island's public charter school movement ranked #10 out of 26, scoring 70 points out of 116.

### Rhode Island scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Fifty-six percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 47 percent of traditional public schools.
- Eight public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Rhode Island, a 10 percent average annual open rate.
- An average of 31 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 in Rhode Island (86 more days in reading and 105 more days in math).

### Rhode Island scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 4 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- No communities in the state had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- No charters closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13 in Rhode Island.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Rhode Island:

- Six percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- The state's public charter schools served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (35 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Public charter schools in Rhode Island served a significantly higher percentage of students in special populations (27 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Ninety-four percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 6 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

# Rhode Island

- In 2010–11, 100 percent of the public charter schools in Rhode Island were independently managed, meaning none of them were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization or a for-profit educational management organization.
- The only authorizer in Rhode Island is the state board of education, and only after a local school board or the state commissioner of elementary and secondary education has approved it. As of 2013–14, the state board of education had authorized 19 public charter schools.
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Rhode Island in 2012–13.

ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and increasing operational autonomy.

## Recommendations

Rhode Island's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results in spite of a relatively weak law. However, its charter school movement is still relatively small. It has likely achieved these results through a combination of its one authorizer implementing solid practices that are not required by the state's public charter school law and a select number of high-performing charters smartly replicating and expanding. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including creating additional authorizing options,





# Rhode Island

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Growth Indicators</b>									
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		19	2	3	6		
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		6					
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		5,950	1	3	3		
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		4					
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4	
		White	30	64	-34				
		Black	17	8	9				
		Hispanic	49	21	28				
		Asian	2	3	-1				
		Total minority	71	36	35				
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status		70	45	25	2	2	4
		Special education status		12	6	6			
		English language learner status		12	16	-4			
		Total special student populations		94	67	27			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	39	31	8	3	2	6	
		Suburb	44	53	-9				
		Town	0	2	-2				
		Rural	17	13	4				
		Total non-suburban	56	47	9				
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0				0	1	0	
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	2	Average Annual Open Rate	10%	3	3	9		
	2010-11	2							
	2011-12	1							
	2012-13	0							
	2013-14	3							
	Total Number	8							
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	0%	0	3	0		
	2009-10	0							
	2010-11	0							
	2011-12	0							
	2012-13	0							
	Total Number	0							

# Rhode Island

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	67	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	67			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	17			
		School-to-Work	17			
		Higher Education Courses	17			
		Average	31			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	86		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	105		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	94	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		6
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	15	100		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	-	-	-	0
		SEAs	1	19	19	100
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# South Carolina

*This state was not ranked.*

South Carolina enacted its public charter school law in 1996. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #15 out of 43. While the law does not cap charter school growth, gives a fair amount of autonomy to public charter schools, and provides multiple authorizing options to charter applicants, it also provides insufficient accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While South Carolina's movement met the first condition, South Carolina was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank South Carolina's public charter school movement in this year's report.

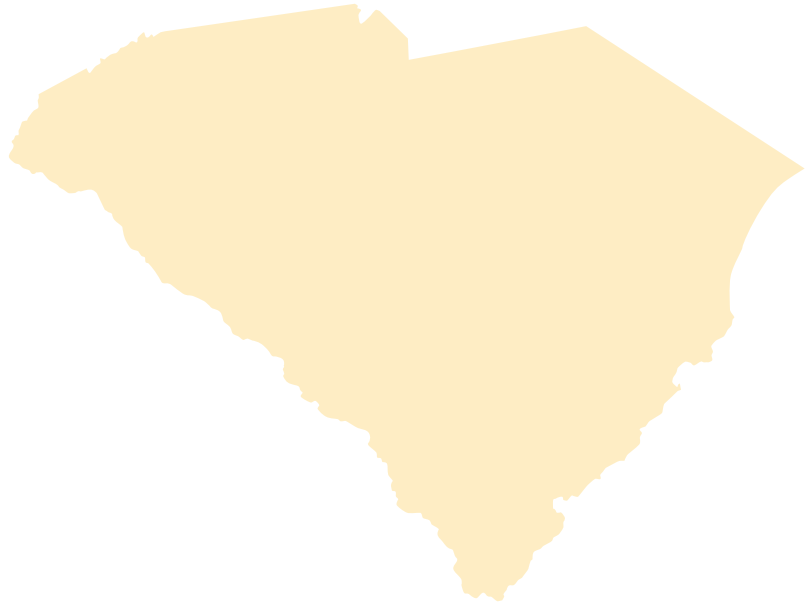
However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 59 public charter schools and 23,302 public charter school students in South Carolina, constituting 5 percent of the state's public schools and 3 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in South Carolina served a lower percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (11 percentage points less).
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in South Carolina served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (13 percentage points less) than traditional public schools but a higher percentage of special education students than traditional public schools (6 percentage points more).
- Seventy-nine percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 80 percent of traditional public schools during 2011–12.
- Thirty new public charter schools opened in South Carolina between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an average annual open rate of 12 percent.
- Seven public charter schools closed in South Carolina between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 3 percent.
- An average of 29 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Ninety-six percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 4 percent were conversions in 2012–13.

# South Carolina

- In 2010–11, 93 percent of the state’s public charters were independently managed, and 7 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. None were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.
- As of 2013–14, 16 local school districts had authorized 35 public charter schools (59 percent of the state’s total number of public charter schools), and one independent state charter board had authorized 24 public charter schools (41 percent).
- There were six virtual public charter schools in South Carolina during 2012–13, serving 8,130 students (40 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools and consider reducing potential barriers to attending charters by providing transportation to public charter school students.



## Recommendations

South Carolina’s populations of public charter schools and public charter school students continue to grow at a healthy rate. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to ensure equitable operational funding (including a formula for state-authorized public charter schools), provide equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and create an expedited approval process for proven models that want to replicate or expand. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and

# South Carolina

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		59	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		5	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		23,302	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	64	53	11
		Black	29	38	-9
		Hispanic	5	7	-2
		Asian	2	2	0
		Other	1	1	0
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	44	57	-13
		Special education status	18	12	6
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	62	69	-7
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	37	15	22
		Suburb	21	20	1
		Town	10	16	-6
		Rural	33	48	-15
		Total non-suburban	79	80	-1
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	4	Average Annual Open Rate	12%	
	2010-11	8			
	2011-12	3			
	2012-13	8			
	2013-14	7			
	Total Number	30			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	2	Average Annual Closure Rate	3%	
	2009-10	2			
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	3			
	Total Number	7			

# South Carolina

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	63			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	33			
		Year Round Calendar	15			
		Independent Study	26			
		School-to-Work	19			
		Higher Education Courses	19			
		Average	29			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	96	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		4
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	41	93		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	3	7		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	16	35	2	59
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	24	24	41
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			8,130	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			40	
		Number of virtual charter schools			6	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			11	

# Tennessee

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

9

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

71

## Law Summary

Tennessee enacted its public charter school law in 2002. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #35 out of 43. While the law does not contain any caps on charter school growth, it primarily allows only local school district authorizers and provides insufficient autonomy and accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Tennessee's charter school movement ranked #9 out of 26, scoring 71 points out of 116.

### Tennessee scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Ninety-five percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 87 percent of traditional public schools.
- Fifty-seven public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Tennessee, a 27 percent average annual growth rate.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited higher academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 in Tennessee (86 more days in reading and 72 more days in math).

### Tennessee scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 4 percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013-14.
- Only 1 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013-14.
- No community in the state had more than 10 percent of its public school students in charters during 2012–13.

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Tennessee:

- In 2012–13, public charter schools in the state served a significantly higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (66 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- In 2011-12, public charter schools in Tennessee served a higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (3 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Two public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13 in Tennessee, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 22 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

# Tennessee

- Ninety-four percent of the state's public charter schools were startups, and 6 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 86 percent of the public charter schools in Tennessee were independently managed, and 14 percent were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization. None were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, local school districts and the state's Achievement School District (ASD) could authorize public charter schools. As of that year, three local school districts had authorized 62 public charter schools (85 percent of the state's public charters), and the ASD had authorized 11 public charter schools (15 percent).
- There were no virtual public charter schools in Tennessee during 2012–13.

smartly replicating and expanding. We encourage the state to enact policies to increase the impact of such success, including creating additional authorizing options, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, and increasing operational autonomy.



## Recommendations

Tennessee's charter school movement has achieved relatively strong results in spite of a relatively weak law. However, its charter school movement is still relatively small. It has likely achieved these results through a combination of a small number of authorizers implementing solid practices that are not required by the state's public charter school law and a select number of high-performing charters



# Tennessee

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		71	1	3	1	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		4				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		12,148	0	3	0	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		1				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	2	68	-66			
		Black	95	23	72			
		Hispanic	2	6	-4			
		Asian	0	2	-2			
		Total minority	98	32	66			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2011-12	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	58	55	3	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	58	55	3			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	90	29	61	3	2	6
		Suburb	5	13	-8			
		Town	0	15	-15			
		Rural	5	43	-38			
		Total non-suburban	95	87	8			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0				0	1	0
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	6	Average Annual Open Rate	27%	4	3	12	
	2010-11	8						
	2011-12	10						
	2012-13	8						
	2013-14	25						
	Total Number	57						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	2	3	6	
	2009-10	1						
	2010-11	0						
	2011-12	0						
	2012-13	1						
	Total Number	2						

# Tennessee

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	86	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	33			
		Year Round Calendar	14			
		Independent Study	0			
		School-to-Work	0			
		Higher Education Courses	0			
		Average	22			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	86		4	4	16
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	72		4	4	16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	94	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		6
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	25	86		
		CMOs	4	14		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	3	62	21	85
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	11	11	15
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools		0		
		Number of virtual charter schools		0		
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools		0		

# Texas

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

19

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

47

## Law Summary

Texas enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #23 out of 43.

Texas' law is notable in that it often applies different requirements to state-authorized versus district-authorized charters. The requirements for state-authorized charters are more defined than those for district-authorized charters (for example, school autonomy and the charter application process for state-authorized charters are set by statute and regulation). The autonomy and the charter application process for district-authorized charters depend on the particular district. In fact, if our analysis just focused on the provisions governing state-authorized charters, Texas' law would be in our top 10. However, since our analysis looks at how the law addresses both types of charters, Texas is ranked #23.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Texas' public charter school movement ranked #19 out of 26, scoring 47 points out of 116.

### Texas scored relatively well on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools served a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority students (15 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Ten communities in Texas had more than 10 percent of their public school students in charters in 2012–13.
- An average of 30 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.

### Texas scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Only 5 percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- On average, public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 in Texas (22 fewer days in reading and 29 fewer days in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Texas:

- Eight percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Public charter schools in Texas served a significantly higher percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students (22 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools in 2012–13.
- Eighty-six percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 81 percent of traditional public schools.
- Two hundred thirty-five charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Texas, an 8 percent average annual open rate.
- Forty-seven charter campuses closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13 in Texas, a 2 percent average annual closure rate.
- Eighty-eight percent of the state's public charters were startups, and 12 percent were conversions during 2012–13.

- In 2010–11, 59 percent of the state’s public charters were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization, 41 percent were independently managed, and less than 1 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, Texas law allowed applicants to apply to either local school boards or the state board of education. As of 2013–14, 16 local school boards had authorized 76 public charter campuses (11 percent of the state’s public charter campuses), and the state board of education had authorized 613 public charter campuses (89 percent).
- There was one virtual public charter school in Texas in 2012–13, serving 5,319 students (2 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Overall, Texas’ charter school movement is growing at a healthy clip, especially with 10 communities with at least 10 percent of their public school students enrolled in charters. While there are many successful public charter schools and nonprofit charter management organizations in Texas, public charter school students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

Recognizing these strengths and weaknesses in the movement, Texas charter school supporters, led by the Texas Charter Schools Association (TCSA), have implemented several

efforts to improve achievement. TCSA has taken a holistic approach to improving quality in Texas public charter schools by supporting the closure of the poorest-performing schools, improving the quality of existing charters, and recruiting and developing new high-quality charters.

The closure of the poorest-performing charters has been largely accomplished by the adoption of Senate Bill 2 (SB2) from the 83rd Legislative Session. In addition to raising the cap on the number of public charter schools in the state, SB2 shifted authorizing authority from the state board of education to the commissioner of education and enacted strict revocation and nonrenewal language. In its first year of implementation, SB2 resulted in the revocation of six of the poorest-performing charters. Now in its second year of implementation, TCSA estimates that as many as 14 poor-performing charters may be revoked by the state. While some rule modification necessities remain to ensure the proper identification of charters for revocation and to ensure clear due process, TCSA continues to support the revocation of consistently poor-performing charters.

The cornerstone of TCSA’s charter improvement is the Quality Framework. The Quality Framework helps public charter schools assess quality and improve academic, financial, and operational effectiveness. Upon joining TCSA, each member charter school pledges to continuously improve and uphold quality by engaging in the Quality Framework process. The Quality Framework provides members tools

and resources by targeting areas of need and matching them with resources and provides TCSA with continuously updated data on the areas of need to be addressed in training and support. TCSA also supports the quality of existing public charter schools by offering high-quality, charter-specific training through a variety of platforms.

Rounding out the holistic approach to charter school quality are the recruitment, development, and support strategies TCSA has developed for new or charter applicants throughout the state. TCSA staff analysis has identified pockets of specific need throughout the state and will seek out applications from out-of-state charters with proven success with the identified populations. Charter applicants also have the opportunity to take advantage of TCSA’s charter development services. This unique service is aimed at improving the quality of charter school applicants that submit to the Texas Education Agency, thus creating more quality charter school seats in the state.

Taken together, these changes will better promote the growth of high-quality public charter schools and the closure of chronically low-performing public charter schools. We are optimistic they will yield stronger achievement results as more current data become available.

To further support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state increase its investment in the authorizing capacity of the state department of education and provide more equitable funding and facilities support to charters.

# Texas

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		689		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		8				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		238,093		1	3	3
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	4	2	8
		White	15	31	-16			
		Black	21	12	9			
		Hispanic	57	51	6			
		Asian	4	4	0			
		Total minority	84	69	15			
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	71	49	22	2	2	4
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	71	49	22			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	69	34	35	2	2	4
		Suburb	14	19	-5			
		Town	5	14	-9			
		Rural	12	34	-22			
		Total non-suburban	86	81	5			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	10				4	1	4
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	49		Average Annual Open Rate	8%	2	3	6
	2010-11	43						
	2011-12	43						
	2012-13	48						
	2013-14	52						
	Total Number	235						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	6		Average Annual Closure Rate	2%	2	3	6
	2009-10	13						
	2010-11	17						
	2011-12	8						
	2012-13	3						
	Total Number	47						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	62	3	2	6
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	36			
		Year Round Calendar	6			
		Independent Study	32			
		School-to-Work	16			
		Higher Education Courses	30			
		Average	30			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-22		0	4	0
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-29		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	88	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		12
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	229	41		
		CMOs	328	59		
		EMOs	2	0.4		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	16	76	5	11
		SEAs	1	613	613	89
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			5,319	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			2	
		Number of virtual charter schools			1	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Utah

**RANKING:**  
(out of 26)

**24**

**SCORE:**  
(out of 116)

**38**

## Law Summary

Utah enacted its public charter school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #25 out of 43. While Utah's law allows multiple authorizing options for charters, it contains a cap on charter school growth and provides inadequate autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

## Health of the Movement Summary

Utah's public charter school movement ranked #24 out of 26, scoring 38 points out of 116.

### Utah scored relatively low on the following indicators:

- Public charter schools in Utah served a lower percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students during 2012–13 (18 percentage points less) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Only two communities in Utah had more than 10 percent of public school students in charters during 2012–13.
- Two public charter schools closed between 2008–09 and 2012–13 in Utah, a 1 percent average annual closure rate.
- On average, the state's public charter school students exhibited lower academic growth when compared with traditional public school students between 2007–08 and 2010–11 (seven fewer days in reading and 43 fewer days in math).

### In addition to the above points, we also offer the following observations about the movement in Utah:

- Ten percent of the state's public schools were charters in 2013–14.
- Nine percent of the state's public school students were charter students in 2013–14.
- The percentage of racial and ethnic minority students in the state's public charter schools was 4 percentage points less than in its traditional public schools during 2012–13.
- During 2011–12, 62 percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas as compared to 57 percent of traditional public schools.
- Thirty-one public charters opened between 2009–10 and 2013–14 in Utah, an 8 percent average annual growth rate.
- An average of 21 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the public charter schools in Utah were startups in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 99 percent of the public charter schools in Utah were independently operated, and 1 percent were associated with a for-profit educational management organization. None were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.

- In 2012–13, Utah law permitted local school boards, the state charter school board, and designated higher education institutions to authorize public charter schools, subject to state board of education approval. As of 2013–14, five local school boards had authorized eight public charter schools (8 percent of the state’s public charters), two higher education institutions had authorized two public charter schools (3 percent), and the state charter school board had authorized 85 public charter schools (89 percent).
- There were four virtual public charter schools in Utah in 2012–13, serving 3,366 students (7 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

Utah has notable populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. However, such students, on average, are not performing as well as their peers in traditional public schools, although it is important to note that the most recent student academic growth data available are from 2010–11.

To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we recommend that the state change its law to strengthen its accountability policies for charters, provide more operational autonomy to public charter schools, and ensure equitable operational funding

to charters. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students and to ensure that chronically low-performing charters are closed.





# Utah

Indicator	Year	Data				Rating	Weight	Total Score
<b>Growth Indicators</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		95		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		10				
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		54,900		2	3	6
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		9				
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference	2	2	4
		White	80	77	3			
		Black	1	1	0			
		Hispanic	12	16	-4			
		Asian	2	2	0			
		Other	4	4	0			
Total minority	19	23	-4					
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	17	35	-18	0	2	0
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A			
		Total special student populations	17	35	-18			
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	20	17	3	2	2	4
		Suburb	28	43	-5			
		Town	6	15	-9			
		Rural	36	25	11			
		Total non-suburban	62	57	5			
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	2				1	1	1
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	7		Average Annual Open Rate	8%	2	3	6
	2010-11	6						
	2011-12	4						
	2012-13	7						
	2013-14	7						
	Total Number	31						
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1		Average Annual Closure Rate	1%	1	3	3
	2009-10	0						
	2010-11	1						
	2011-12	0						
	2012-13	0						
	Total Number	2						

Indicator	Year	Data	Rating	Weight	Total Score	
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011-12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	27	2	2	4
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	19			
		Year Round Calendar	4			
		Independent Study	27			
		School-to-Work	15			
		Higher Education Courses	31			
		Average	21			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007-08 to 2010-11	-7		1	4	4
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007-08 to 2010-11	-43		0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012-13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010-11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	77	99		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	1	1		
Charter authorizer information	2013-14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	5	8	2	8
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	1	85	85	89
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	2	2	1	3
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012-13	Number of virtual charter school students			3,366	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			7	
		Number of virtual charter schools			4	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			4	

# Virginia

*This state was not ranked.*

Virginia enacted its public charter school law in 1998. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, Virginia's law was ranked #39 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not cap charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Virginia's charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Virginia's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided what data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were six public charter schools and 2,161 public charter school students in Virginia, constituting less than 1 percent of the state's public schools and less than 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.

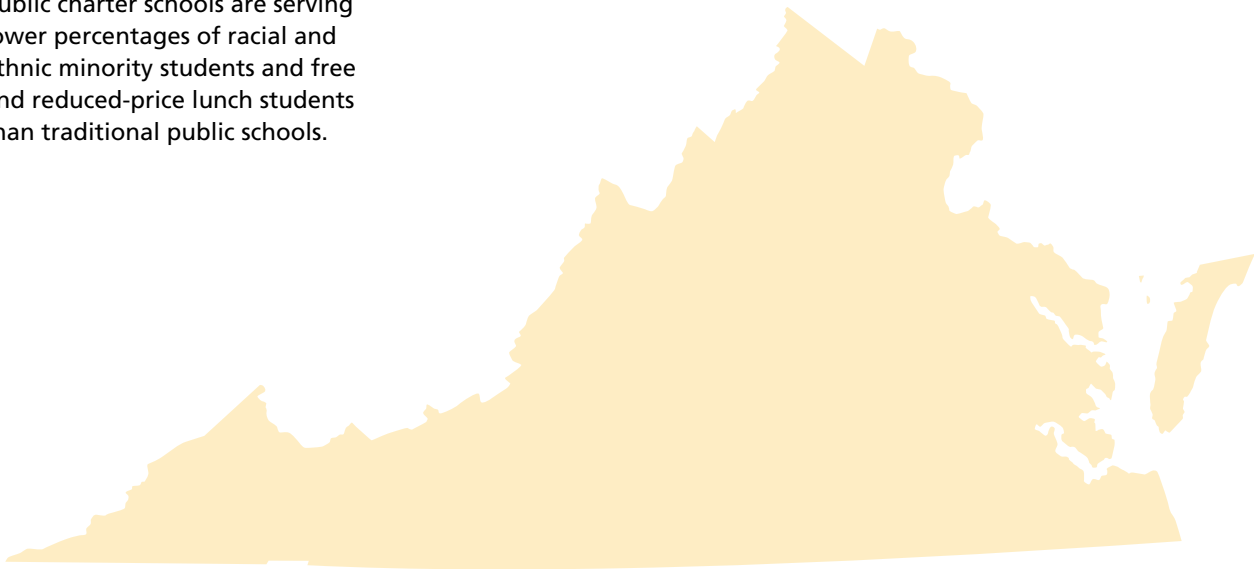
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in Virginia served lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (4 percentage points less) and free and reduced-price lunch students (27 percentage points less) but a higher percentage of English learners (7 percentage points more) when compared with traditional public schools.
- Seventy-five percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared to 70 percent of traditional public schools.
- Three new public charter schools opened in Virginia between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an average annual open rate of 14 percent.
- One public charter school closed in Virginia between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 5 percent.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups as of 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 100 percent of the state's public charters were independently managed, meaning none of them were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization or a for-profit educational management organization.
- In 2013–14, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. Four of them had done so as of that year.

# Virginia

- There were zero virtual public charter schools in Virginia during 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Virginia has very small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options, strengthen accountability, increase operational autonomy, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities. We also encourage the state to explore why public charter schools are serving lower percentages of racial and ethnic minority students and free and reduced-price lunch students than traditional public schools.



# Virginia

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		6	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		0.3	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		2,161	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		0.2	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	57	53	4
		Black	32	24	8
		Hispanic	5	13	-8
		Asian	1	6	-5
		Other	6	5	1
Total minority	44	48	-4		
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	12	39	-27
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	19	12	7
		Total special student populations	31	51	-20
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	75	23	52
		Suburb	25	30	-5
		Town	0	9	-9
		Rural	0	38	-38
		Total non-suburban	75	70	5
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average Annual Open Rate	14%	
	2010-11	1			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	2013-14	2			
	Total Number	3			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	1	Average Annual Closure Rate	5%	
	2009-10	0			
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	0			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	1			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	-			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	-			
		Year Round Calendar	-			
		Independent Study	-			
		School-to-Work	-			
		Higher Education Courses	-			
		Average	-			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	4	100		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	4	6	2	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	

# Washington

*This state was not ranked.*

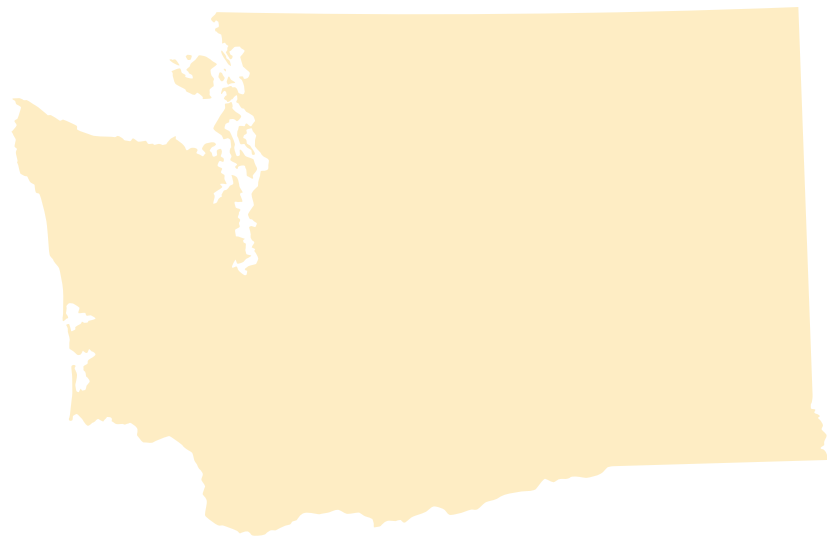
Washington enacted its public charter school law in 2012. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, Washington's law was ranked #6 out of 43, making it one of the strongest laws in the country.

Washington's relatively new law allows multiple authorizers via local school districts and a new statewide authorizer, has strong quality control components, gives operational autonomy to public charter schools, and provides equitable operational funding to public charter schools. The two major weaknesses of the law include a cap of 40 public charter schools during the initial five years that the law is in effect and a relatively small number of provisions for supporting charters' facilities needs.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to

serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Since Washington just enacted its public charter school law in 2012, its charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Washington's public charter school movement in this year's report.

Washington's first charter school opened in fall 2014. Several more public charter schools are expected to open in fall 2015.









# Wisconsin

*This state was not ranked.*

Wisconsin enacted its public charter school law in 1993. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #38 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country.

One of the primary contributors to the public charter school law's weakness in Wisconsin is that it creates three types of public charter schools. The first two types—"independent charter schools" and "noninstrumentality charter schools"—actually have independence and autonomy. The City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside authorized independent charter schools. Noninstrumentality charter schools are authorized by local school districts, and their staff members are employees at the school (not the district). The third type—"instrumentality charter schools"—has little independence and autonomy. Instrumentality charter schools are authorized by local school districts, and their staff members are employees at the district (not the school). For all three types of charters, the law provides insufficient accountability and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its

public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. While Wisconsin's movement met the first condition, Wisconsin was not a partner state in CREDO's 2013 study. Therefore, we did not score and rank Wisconsin's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were 245 public charter schools and 43,835 public charter school students in Wisconsin, constituting 11 percent of the state's public schools and 5 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.
- However, only 20 percent of the state's public charters actually have independence and autonomy (meaning they are independent charter schools or noninstrumentality charter schools).
- In 2012–13, public charter schools in Wisconsin served higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (23 percentage points more) and students from special populations (10 percentage points more) than traditional public schools.
- Eighty-six percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12 as compared with 82 percent of traditional public schools.
- There were four communities in Wisconsin with more than

# Wisconsin

10 percent of public school students in charters in 2012–13.

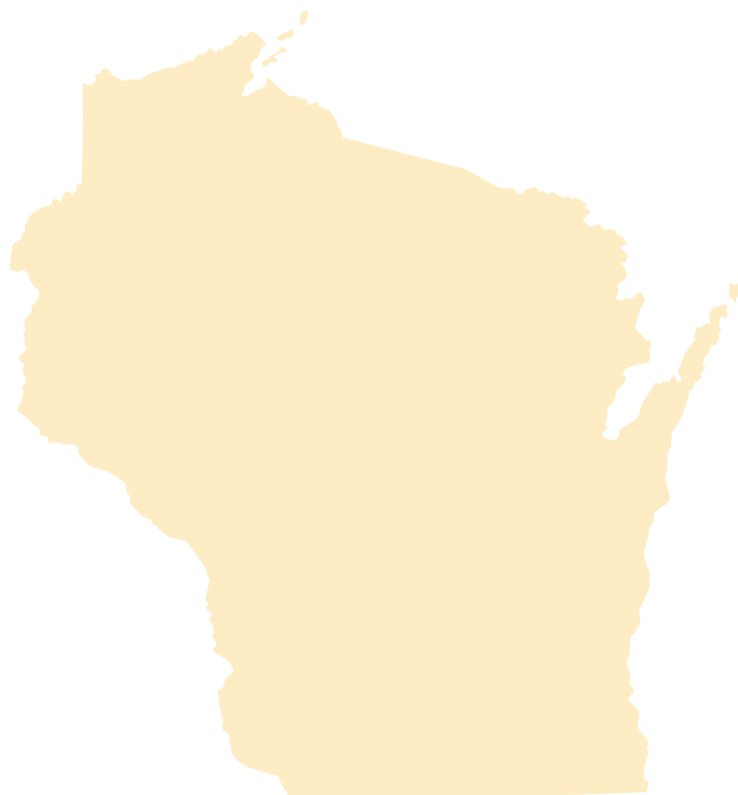
- One hundred eight new public charter schools opened in Wisconsin between 2009–10 and 2013–14, a 10 percent average annual open rate.
- Eighty public charter schools closed in Wisconsin between 2008–09 and 2012–13, a 7 percent average annual closure rate.
- An average of 27 percent of the state’s public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- Eighty-six percent of the state’s public charter schools were startups, and 14 percent were conversions during 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 98 percent of the state’s public charter schools were independently managed, and 2 percent are associated with a for-profit educational management organization. No charters are associated with a nonprofit charter management organization.
- In 2013–14, local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. In Milwaukee, other eligible authorizers included the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Area Technical College. In Racine, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside may authorize one school. As of

2013–14, 101 local school districts had authorized 223 public charters (91 percent of the state’s public charters), two higher education authorizers had authorized 13 public charters (5 percent), and one noneducational governmental entity had authorized 10 public charters (4 percent).

- There were 29 virtual public charter schools in Wisconsin during 2012–13 serving 6,146 students (13 percent of the state’s public charter school population).

## Recommendations

While Wisconsin has a notable number of public charter schools, only 20 percent of the state’s public charters actually have independence and autonomy. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options throughout the state, strengthen accountability, increase operational autonomy, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



# Wisconsin

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		245	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		11	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		43,835	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		5	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	51	74	-23
		Black	25	9	16
		Hispanic	16	10	6
		Asian	6	4	2
		Other	3	4	-1
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	52	41	11
		Special education status	7	6	1
		English language learner status	12	14	-2
		Total special student populations	71	61	10
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	44	21	23
		Suburb	14	18	-4
		Town	17	18	-1
		Rural	25	42	-17
		Total non-suburban	86	82	4
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	4			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	5	Average Annual Open Rate	10%	
	2010-11	17			
	2011-12	39			
	2012-13	23			
	2013-14	24			
	Total Number	108			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	19	Average Annual Closure Rate	7%	
	2009-10	17			
	2010-11	11			
	2011-12	16			
	2012-13	17			
	Total Number	80			

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	35			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	31			
		Year Round Calendar	15			
		Independent Study	40			
		School-to-Work	25			
		Higher Education Courses	15			
		Average	27			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	86	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		14
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	202	98		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	4	2		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	101	223	2	91
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	1	10	10	4
		HEIs	2	13	7	5
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			6,146	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			13	
		Number of virtual charter schools			29	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			12	

# Wyoming

*This state was not ranked.*

Wyoming enacted its public charter school law in 1995. In our most recent rankings of state charter school laws, it was ranked #37 out of 43, making it one of the weakest laws in the country. While the law does not contain a cap on charter school growth, it allows only local school district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability to charters, and inequitable funding to charters.

A state's public charter school movement had to meet two conditions to be scored and ranked in this year's report. First, the movement had to serve at least 1 percent of the state's public school students. Second, the state had to participate in the Center for Research on Education Outcomes' (CREDO) 2013 National Charter School Study so that we had a measure of student academic growth data for its public charter schools in comparison to its traditional public schools. Wyoming's charter school movement did not meet either condition. Therefore, we did not score and rank Wyoming's public charter school movement in this year's report.

However, we provided the data we were able to gather below. Based on this information, we offer the following observations:

- In 2013–14, there were four public charter schools and 463 public charter school students in Wyoming, constituting 1 percent of the state's public schools and 1 percent of the state's public school students, respectively.

- In 2011–12, public charter schools in Wyoming served higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority students (17 percentage points more) and free and reduced-price lunch students (11 percentage points more) than traditional public schools.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charters were located in nonsuburban areas in 2011–12, as compared to 99 percent of traditional public schools.
- Two new public charter schools opened in Wyoming between 2009–10 and 2013–14, an average annual open rate of 11 percent.
- One public charter school closed in Wyoming between 2008–09 and 2012–13, an average annual closure rate of 6 percent.
- An average of 28 percent of the state's public charter schools reported using one of the six innovative practices that we tracked in 2011–12.
- One hundred percent of the state's public charter schools were startups in 2012–13.
- In 2010–11, 100 percent of the state's public charter schools were independently managed, meaning none of them were associated with a nonprofit charter management organization or a for-profit educational management organization.

# Wyoming

- In 2013–14, only local school districts were allowed to authorize in the state. As of that year, two had done so.
- There were zero virtual public charter schools in Wyoming as of 2012–13.

## Recommendations

Wyoming has very small populations of public charter schools and public charter school students. To better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools, we encourage the state to change its law to create additional authorizing options, strengthen accountability, increase operational autonomy, and ensure equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities.



# Wyoming

Indicator	Year	Data			
<b>Growth Indicators</b>					
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters	2013-14	Number of public charter schools		4	
		Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		1	
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students	2013-14	Number of public charter school students		463	
		Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		1	
3) Percentage of students by race and ethnicity	2012-13		Charters	Traditional	Difference
		White	63	80	-17
		Black	7	1	6
		Hispanic	15	13	2
		Asian	3	1	2
		Other	12	5	7
		Total minority	37	20	17
4) Percentage of students in special populations	2012-13	Free- and reduced-price lunch status	48	37	11
		Special education status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		English language learner status	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total special student populations	48	37	11
5) Percentage of schools by geographic distribution	2011-12	City	0	13	-13
		Suburb	0	1	-1
		Town	25	30	-5
		Rural	75	55	20
		Total non-suburban	100	99	1
6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters	2012-13	0			
7) Average annual open rate of new charter schools over the past five years	2009-10	0	Average Annual Open Rate	11%	
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	1			
	2013-14	0			
	Total Number	2			
8) Average annual closure rate of charter schools over the past five years	2008-09	0	Average Annual Closure Rate	6%	
	2009-10	0			
	2010-11	0			
	2011-12	1			
	2012-13	0			
	Total Number	1			

# Wyoming

Indicator	Year	Data				
<b>Innovation Indicators</b>						
9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices	2011–12	Extended Day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools)	33			
		Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools)	33			
		Year Round Calendar	0			
		Independent Study	33			
		School-to-Work	33			
		Higher Education Courses	33			
		Average	28			
<b>Quality Indicators</b>						
10) Number of additional days of learning reading	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
11) Number of additional days of learning for math	2007–08 to 2010–11	-				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Grand Total Points</b>		<b>Total Possible Points</b>		
<b>Items Reported But Not Scored</b>						
Percentage of state's charter schools that are start-ups vs. conversions	2012–13	Percentage of a state's charter schools that are start-ups	100	Percentage of a state's public charter schools that are conversions		0
Percentage of a state's charter schools that are independent, affiliated with a CMO, or affiliated with an EMO	2010–11	Type	Number	Percentage		
		Independent	3	100		
		CMOs	0	0		
		EMOs	0	0		
Charter authorizer information	2013–14	Type	Number of authorizers	Number of charter schools	Average number of charters per authorizer	Percentage of the state's charters authorized by this type of authorizer
		LEAs	2	4	2	100
		SEAs	-	-	-	0
		ICBs	-	-	-	0
		NEGs	-	-	-	0
		HEIs	-	-	-	0
		NFPs	-	-	-	0
Virtual charter schools and students	2012–13	Number of virtual charter school students			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter school student population enrolled in virtual charter schools			0	
		Number of virtual charter schools			0	
		Percentage of a state's charter schools that are virtual charter schools			0	



# Appendix A: Rubric

Indicator	How Calculated	Weight	Value Statement	Scores				
				0	1	2	3	4
<b>Growth</b>								
1) Percentage of a state's public schools that are charters		3	The higher the percentage, the better.	0 to 0.4%	0.5% to 4.9%	5% to 9.9%	10% to 14.9%	15% or more
2) Percentage of a state's public school students that are charter students		3	The higher the percentage, the better.	1 to 1.4%	1.5% to 4.9%	5% to 9.9%	10% to 14.9%	15% or more
3) Percentage of charter students by race and ethnicity	Difference between the total minority percentage within charter and traditional public schools	2	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve at least the same, or slightly higher, percentage of historically underserved students as traditional public schools.	≤ 10.1 percent-age points less	5.1 percent-age points less to 10 percent-age points less	5.0 percent-age points less to 5.0 percent-age points more OR ≥ 20.1 percent-age points more	5.1 to 10 percentage points more OR 15.1 to 20 percent-age points more	10.1 percent-age points more to 15 percent-age points more
4) Percentage of charter students in special populations	Difference between the percentages within charter and traditional public schools	2	It is preferable for charter public schools to serve at least the same, or slightly higher, percentage of historically underserved students as traditional public schools.	≤ 10.1 percent-age points less	5.1 percent-age points less to 10 percent-age points less	5.0 percent-age points less to 5.0 percent-age points more OR ≥ 20.1 percent-age points more	5.1 to 10 percentage points more OR 15.1 to 20 percent-age points more	10.1 percent-age points more to 15 percent-age points more

# Appendix A: Rubric

Indicator	How Calculated	Weight	Value Statement	Scores				
				0	1	2	3	4
<b>Growth</b>								
<b>5) Geographic distribution of charter schools</b>	Difference between the percentage of charter & traditional public schools in non-suburban areas		It is preferable for charter public schools to serve at least the same, or slightly higher, percentage of historically underserved students as traditional public schools.	≤ 10.1 percent-age points less	5.1 percent-age points less to 10 percentage points less	5.0 percent-age points less to 5.0 percentage points more OR ≥ 20.1 percent-age points more	5.1 to 10 percent-age points more OR 15.1 to 20 percentage points more	10.1 percent-age points more to 15 percentage points more
<b>6) Number of communities with more than 10% of students in charters</b>		1	The higher the number of communities, the better.	0	1 to 3	4 to 6	7 to 9	10 or more
<b>7) Growth rate of new charter schools over the past five years</b>	Average number of new schools per year for the past five years / the total number of charter schools	2	The higher the growth rate, the better.	0 to 0.4%	0.5% to 3.9%	4% to 7.9%	8% to 11.9%	12% or more
<b>8) Closure rate of charter schools over the past five years</b>	Average number of closed schools per year for the past five years / the total number of charter schools	2	It is preferable to have a small and consistent percentage of schools close (but not too many as such a number reveals inadequate approval and oversight processes).	0 to 0.4% OR ≥ 7%	0.5% to 0.9% OR 6.0% to 6.9%	1.0% to 1.9% OR 5.0% to 5.9%	2.0% to 2.9% OR 4.0% to 4.9%	3.0% to 3.9%

# Appendix A: Rubric

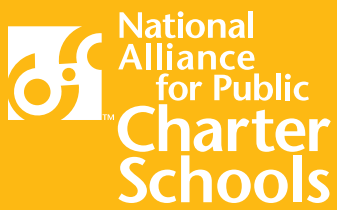
Indicator	How Calculated	Weight	Value Statement	Scores				
				0	1	2	3	4
<b>Innovation</b>								
<b>9) Percentage of charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices</b>	% reporting use of extended day and/or year, independent study, school-to-work, taking higher ed courses	2	The higher the percentage, the better.	0% to 5%	6% to 15%	16% to 25%	26% to 35%	36% or more
<b>Quality</b>								
<b>10) Student academic growth in reading</b>	Number of additional days of learning	3	It is preferable for public charter school students to have outcomes greater than traditional public school students.	greater than 10 days less	between 0 days less and 10 days less	between 1 day more and 15 days more	between 16 days more and 30 days more	greater than 30 days more
<b>11) Student academic growth in math</b>	Number of additional days of learning	3	It is preferable for public charter school students to have outcomes greater than traditional public school students.	greater than 10 days less	between 0 days less and 10 days less	between 1 day more and 15 days more	between 16 days more and 30 days more	greater than 30 days more

# Appendix B: Data Sources

Indicator	Data Source
1. Public school share	Annually, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools collects school, district, and state enrollment data from official state department of education fall membership count data files. The data in this report are from 2013–14.
2. Public school student share	
3. Students by race and ethnicity	Annually, the National Alliance collects school, district, and state race/ethnicity enrollment data from official state department of education fall membership count data files. The data in this report for most states are from 2012–13. For a small number of states, they are from an earlier year.
4. Students in special populations (i.e., free and reduced-price lunch status, special education status, and English learner status)	Annually, the National Alliance collects school, district, and state free and reduced-price lunch enrollment data from official state department of education fall membership count data files. Where available, the National Alliance collects school, district, and state special education and English learner status data from state departments of education. The data in this report for most states are from 2012–13. For a small number of states, they are from an earlier year.
5. Schools by geographic distribution	<p>The National Alliance uses the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data (CCD) to code the geographic location of public charter schools. The National Alliance collapsed data from CCD into four main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ City: city, large; city, mid-size; city, small</li> <li>■ Suburb: suburb, large; suburb, mid-size; suburb, small</li> <li>■ Town: town, fringe; town, distant; town, remote</li> <li>■ Rural: rural, fringe; rural, distant; rural, remote</li> </ul> <p>The most recent data available from CCD are from 2011–12.</p>
6. Communities with more than 10 percent of students in public charter schools	<p>Annually, the National Alliance releases a market share report that ranks school districts by the percentage and total number of students enrolled in public charter schools. Notes on the data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ School districts must have at least 10,000 students enrolled in all public schools (both charter and noncharter) to be included in the report.</li> <li>■ The National Alliance geocodes public charter schools that are their own local educational agencies (LEAs) to the geographically relevant traditional public school district by mapping physical charter school addresses onto school district boundary maps available through the U.S. Census Bureau.</li> <li>■ For Michigan and Ohio in the market share report, the National Alliance uses student residential enrollment data that indicate the total number of students attending charter schools based on the district where students reside. As a result, the total number of students in public charter schools in districts in these two states may not be the same as the total enrollment reported on district pages on the National Alliance's Data Dashboard, where we present the total number of students enrolled in public charter schools physically located in the school district boundaries.</li> <li>■ The growing numbers of virtual public charter schools enrolling children from across an entire state presents an issue. Because many states have not developed student enrollment reporting systems that allow the sorting of individual students by community of residence at each public charter school, we excluded virtual school enrollment data from both the charter and total district enrollment data when calculating market share percentages. We recognize that this decision might create some undercounting in school districts where large numbers of students are enrolled in virtual public charter schools. However, we include enrollment from virtual public charter schools in the District of Columbia and Hawaii, which each have only one school district, and in Michigan and Ohio, where we have resident enrollment data and know the district where students live.</li> </ul> <p>The data in this report are from 2012–13.</p>

## Appendix B: Data Sources

Indicator	Data Source
7. New public charter schools opened over the past five years	In the fall of each academic year, the National Alliance contacts state departments of education and charter support organizations to gather lists of anticipated new public charter schools and public charter schools that closed the previous year. When state departments of education make official fall enrollment files available, the National Alliance revises the lists to determine new and closed public charter schools. For #7, the data in this report are from 2009–10 to 2013–14. For #8, the data are from 2008–09 to 2012–13.
8. Public charter schools closed over the past five years	
9. Public charter schools reporting use of various innovative practices (i.e., extended day, extended year, year-round calendar, independent study, school-to-work, higher education courses)	<p>During spring 2012, the National Alliance conducted its first national public charter school survey, asking public charter school leaders to respond to questions on school waitlists, curriculum, facilities, and a variety of other operational elements. The overall response rate was roughly 30 percent. For this report, we specifically looked at the percentage of public charter schools that were using the following innovative practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Extended day (30 minutes or more each day compared to traditional public schools);</li> <li>■ Extended year (10 or more days compared to traditional public schools);</li> <li>■ Year-round calendar;</li> <li>■ Independent study;</li> <li>■ School-to-work; and</li> <li>■ Higher education courses.</li> </ul>
10. Additional days of learning in reading	Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University's 2013 National Charter School Study. The data are from 2007–08 to 2010–11.
11. Additional days of learning in math	Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University's 2013 National Charter School Study. The data are from 2007–08 to 2010–11.
<b>Indicators Reported But Not Scored</b>	
Startups versus conversions	Annually, the National Alliance collects information from state departments of education about whether public charter schools are conversions or startups. The data in this report are from 2012–13.
Public charter schools that are independent, associated with a charter management organization, or associated with an educational management organization	Gary Miron, Jessica L. Urschel, Mayra A. Yat Aguilar, and Breanna Dailey, Profiles of For-Profit and Nonprofit Educational Management Organizations, National Education Policy Center, Boulder, CO, January 2012. The data in this report are from 2010–11.
Charter authorizers	National Association of Charter School Authorizers. The data in this report are from 2013–14.
Virtual public charter schools and students	Evergreen Education Group. The data in this report are from 2012–13.



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