

ALASKA

(Law passed in 1995; last amended in 2010; 7th weakest of the nation's 42 charter laws)

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28 charters serving 5,613 students.

6 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

[LINK TO THE ALASKA CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

APPROVAL	State Board of Education is the only authorizer following school board approval.
APPEAL	None

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	No. Waiver requests considered on a case-by-case basis by the State Board of Education. Virtual schools are allowed. Education Service Provider (ESP) contracts subject to approval and negotiation of terms.
LOCAL	No. Charters are considered part of the school district; all operational and funding decisions are subject to district terms.
TEACHER FREEDOM	No. Teachers are covered by the district bargaining agreement unless an exemption is approved. Charter schools must participate in state's retirement system.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	No legal limit on number of schools that may be approved.
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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	<p>Funds pass through the district to the charter school. Law is vaguely written, leaving charter school funding decisions up to the school district. The school board provides the charter with its annual budget, deducts any operational expenses and sets its own administrative costs.</p> <p>"A local school board shall provide an approved charter school with an annual program budget. The budget shall be not less than the amount generated by the students enrolled in the charter school less administrative costs retained by the local school district, determined by applying the indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Education and Early Development. The 'amount generated by students enrolled in the charter school' is to be determined in the same manner as it would be for a student enrolled in another public school in that school district." [AK Stat. § 14.03.260]</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	Alaska has a grant aid program, which provides for construction of school facilities, leases and major projects. It is dependent on annual state appropriations, not guaranteed. [AK Stat. §14.03.290]

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

-3	Three points are deducted because the state imposed a de facto cap by neither encouraging nor improving charter applications.
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