

# CONNECTICUT

(Law passed in 1996; last amended in 2010;  
9th weakest of the nation's 42 charter laws)



23 charters serving 4,810 students.

5 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

## INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

APPROVAL	State Board of Education. School boards must approve charters first (and have yet to do so).
APPEAL	None

## OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	No. Waiver requests considered on a case-by-case basis by state board. State maintains control over charter funding. Virtual schools prohibited. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	No.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes for state charters; teachers may negotiate as a separate unit, or work independently. No for local charters; teachers remain covered by district collective bargaining agreement, but may apply for waivers from specific provisions. All new charter teachers hired after July 1, 2010, must participate in state's retirement system.

## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	No cap on schools. Charters may enroll no more than 250 students, 300 in K-8, or 25 percent of a district's total enrollment, whichever is less. High-achieving charters (e.g. Achievement Preparatory) can request a waiver from the enrollment cap.
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# CONNECTICUT

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## EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	<p>For state authorized charters, funds pass through state and for district authorized schools, funds pass through district. Law does not codify funding levels. State legislature sets annual appropriation rather than allow the same funding to follow students. Currently charters receive \$9,400 per pupil. Schools do not receive other types of monies.</p> <p>“The state shall pay in accordance with this subsection, to the fiscal authority for a state charter school for each student enrolled in such school...for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year after, nine thousand three hundred dollars. Such payments shall be made as follows: Twenty-five per cent of the amount not later than July fifteenth and September fifteenth based on estimated student enrollment on May first, and twenty-five per cent of the amount not later than January fifteenth and the remaining amount not later than April fifteenth, each based on student enrollment on October first.” [Conn. Gen Stat. 10-66ee(c)]</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	<p>Charters that are renewed are eligible for a one-time grant of \$500,000 for facilities. Twenty million dollars in bond financing available to charters through competitive application, and \$25 million available for one high-performing charter school. [Conn. Gen Stat. 10-66hh]</p>

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

- 3	<p>Three points are deducted because the state has failed to consider and approve charter schools despite having no cap. They have imposed a de facto cap by not encouraging or working to improve the charter environment.</p>
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[LINK TO THE CONNECTICUT CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)