

# IDAHO

(Law passed in 1998; last amended in 2012;  
12th strongest of the nation's 42 charter laws)



43 charters serving 16,304 students.

4 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

## NOTEWORTHY

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy is a model for excellence in Idaho. The high-achieving charter has been operating since 1999 and was ranked in the top 100 American High Schools by *Newsweek* and the *U.S. World News Report*, and was named the best academically performing school in Idaho by *Business Week*.

## INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	School boards may approve both new charters and conversion schools. The Public Charter School Commission (PCSC), a quasi-independent chartering agency, may only approve previously rejected applications and virtual schools.
APPEAL	Yes. Applications denied by a school board or the PCSC may be appealed to the State Board of Education. The state board's recommendation is non-binding and subject to judicial review. If the state board decides to authorize the charter, the PCSC becomes its sponsor.

## OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited except for charters that are local education agencies (LEA), which are designated by state board. All rules for charters come directly from the State Board of Education. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	Limited for charters approved by local boards. State-approved charters are exempt from most local rules and regulations. Fiscal autonomy depends on the school board.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers are exempt from district work rules and negotiated agreements unless otherwise agreed to in district-awarded charter. Charters 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

<p>STUDENT FUNDING</p>	<p>Funds pass through the district in a similar way to other public schools. Most money comes from state and federal sources. Charters are treated differently if they suffer a large enrollment drop or increase.</p> <p>“Per student support. Computation of support units for each public charter school shall be calculated as if it were a separate school according to the schedules in section 33-1002(4), Idaho Code, except that public charter schools with fewer than one hundred (100) secondary ADA shall use a divisor of twelve (12) and the minimum units shall not apply, and no public charter school shall receive an increase in support units that exceeds the support units it received in the prior year by more than thirty (30). Funding from the state educational support program shall be equal to the total distribution factor, plus the salary-based apportionment provided in chapter 10, title 33, Idaho Code. Provided however, any public charter school that is formed by the conversion of an existing traditional public school shall be assigned divisors, pursuant to section 33-1002, Idaho Code, that are no lower than the divisors of the school district in which the traditional public school is located, for each category of pupils listed.” [Idaho Code § 33-5208]</p>
<p>FACILITIES FUNDS</p>	<p>No Additional Funds.</p>

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