

LOUISIANA

(Law passed in 1995; last amended in 2010;
14th strongest of the nation's 42 charter laws)



113 charters serving 38,671 students.

10 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

A robust charter movement in New Orleans began post-Katrina, and now serves 70 percent of all students in the area. Outside of the Recovery District, however, traditional school districts neither encourage nor promote the creation of charter schools.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	School boards and State Board of Education. The state charters directly in the State Recovery District (RSD - Type 5), which currently includes New Orleans, Baton Rouge and other cities with a demonstrated history of failing schools.
APPEAL	Yes. Applications denied by the school board may be appealed to the State Board of Education. If application is approved, the state board becomes the sponsor. (Type 2)

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Yes. There is a blanket waiver from most rules governing traditional public schools, however, there are exceptions for each of the five types of charter school, and autonomy varies. Virtual schools not permitted. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	Limited. Charter schools in some districts experience heavier regulation. Charter schools (except Type 2) are not LEAs for the purpose of funding or special education.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes in the RSD; charter teachers may organize as an individual unit, or work independently. No for all other charter schools; teachers are covered by work rules, unless exemption is negotiated with sponsor and specified in charter. Only Type 2 charter schools must participate in the state retirement's 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>For schools authorized by local boards, funds pass through district. For schools authorized by state, funds pass through state. Amount of funding and streams vary by district and by type of charter school. Law was changed in 2008 to give Type 2 charters state funding, and also a share of local sales and property taxes.</p> <p>“Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, for the purpose of funding, a Type 1, Type 3, and Type 4 charter school shall be considered an approved public school of the local school board entering into the charter agreement and shall receive a per pupil amount each year from the local school board based on the October first membership count of the charter school. Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, Type 2 charter schools shall receive a per pupil amount each year from the state Department of Education using state funds specifically provided for this purpose.” [La. R.S. § 17:3995]</p>
<p>FACILITIES FUNDS</p>	<p>Yes. Charter School Start-Up Loan Fund provides no interest loans up to \$100,000 to schools that can be used for facilities. Only Types 1-3 are eligible, but the majority of charters are Types 4-5. [LA stat. 3971.4001 Part VI (2)]</p>

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