

MINNESOTA

(Law passed in 1991; last amended in 2011;
2nd strongest of the nation's 42 charter laws)

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162 charters serving 32,967 students.

37 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

The nation's first charter law state also has a strong Post-Secondary Option law, now 25 years old, that allows high school juniors and seniors to spend all or part of their time taking college courses, with state funds following, paying all tuition, book and lab fees.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (3)

APPROVAL	School boards, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations that meet certain criteria, subject to final commissioner of education approval.
APPEAL	None.

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Yes. Blanket waiver from most state rules and regulations governing traditional public schools. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted. All current and would-be authorizers must meet a variety of statutes governing operations.
LOCAL	Yes. Charter schools are their own LEAs. Waiver provision applies to local freedoms.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers may remain covered by district collective bargaining agreement if all parties agree, may negotiate as a separate unit with the governing body, or work independently. Charter schools must participate in the state's retirement system.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

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

(Continued)

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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	<p>Funds pass through the state. It is intended that a charter will receive all special education funds, and other aids, grants and revenue as if it were a school district. Charters cannot directly use state money to purchase land or buildings; must create affiliated nonprofit and meet certain criteria to do so.</p> <p>“General education revenue must be paid to a charter school as though it were a district. The general education revenue for each adjusted marginal cost pupil unit is the state average general education revenue per pupil unit, plus the referendum equalization aid allowance in the pupil’s district of residence, minus an amount equal to the product of the formula allowance according to section 126C.10, subdivision 2, times .0485, calculated without basic skills revenue, extended time revenue, alternative teacher compensation revenue, transition revenue, and transportation sparsity revenue, plus basic skills revenue, extended time revenue, basic alternative teacher compensation aid according to section 126C.10, subdivision 34, and transition revenue as though the school were a school district. The general education revenue for each extended time marginal cost pupil unit equals \$4,378.” [MN 2011 Statute 124D.11]</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	<p>Yes. \$1,200 dollars per pupil or 90 percent of actual lease cost goes to charters in the form of lease aid. [MN 2011 Statute 124D.11 Subd4]</p>

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

+ 1	<p>One point awarded for strong accountability measures by the state and by authorizers to ensure that charter schools are being held accountable to outlined performance and operational targets.</p>
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[LINK TO THE MINNESOTA CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)