

NORTH CAROLINA

(Law passed in 1996; last amended in 2011;
14th weakest of the nation's 42 charter laws)

104 charters serving 37,407
students.

34 charter schools closed as of
December 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

A cap lift in 2011 spurred additional proposals and in 2012, the State's appointed charter advisory board chose nine of 27 applicants to open. The process remains very restrictive and the state's leadership does not advocate for opening more high quality charter schools without explicit district support.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	State Board of Education after local board's approval. The University of North Carolina system is also explicitly permitted by law to become an authorizer, but has not done so.
APPEAL	Yes. Applications denied by the school board may be appealed to the State Board of Education.

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited. Blanket waiver provided from many rules and regulations governing traditional public schools. Virtual schools are not allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	Limited. School boards impose various requirements.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers are exempt from district work rules and negotiated agreements unless otherwise agreed to in charter. Teachers have the option to participate in the state system; charter boards decide whether to participate or not.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

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

(Continued)



EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING

Funds pass through the state and district. Funding allocation is supposed to be equal but often is not. Local funds often withheld; charters have won lawsuits over this issue. Charters are suing over not receiving lottery funds.

“The State Board of Education shall allocate to each charter school: (1) An amount equal to the average per pupil allocation for average daily membership from the local school administrative unit allotments in which the charter school is located for each child attending the charter school except for the allocation for children with disabilities and for the allocation for children with limited English proficiency; (2) An additional amount for each child attending the charter school who is a child with disabilities; and (3) An additional amount for children with limited English proficiency attending the charter school, based on a formula adopted by the State Board.” [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29H(a)]

FACILITIES FUNDS

No Additional Funds.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

- 2

Two points are deducted because while the state has lifted its cap, the state and local boards have continued to hinder the approval and opening of charter schools through burdensome processes and lawsuits.

[LINK TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)