

VIRGINIA

(Law passed in 1998; last amended in 2010; 2nd weakest of the nation's 42 charter laws)

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4 charters serving 354 students.

4 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

A Fairfax County teacher is trying to do the impossible - open a charter school in Northern Virginia. It's been a near impossible feat to open any charter in Virginia; the current four are mostly extensions of local school districts, but Fairfax Leadership Academy continues to persevere though is facing tough opposition from the district, a local high school and local county leaders. Despite continued animosity by local boards, the state's elected leaders have failed to address meaningful changes in law.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

APPROVAL	School boards, following state board of education review and approval.
APPEAL	None

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	No. Exemptions from rules are solely at the discretion of the school board. Virtual schools are not allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	No. School boards in full control of charter school operations.
TEACHER FREEDOM	No. All employment rules apply. Charter schools 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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VIRGINIA

(Continued)

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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	Funds pass through district at discretion of the school district. “For the purposes of this article, students enrolled in a public charter school shall be included in the average daily membership of the relevant school division and shall be reported in fall membership for purposes of calculating the state and local shares required to fund the Standards of Quality. B. Insofar as constitutionally valid, a local school board or, in the case of a regional public charter school, the relevant school boards may establish by contract an agreement stating the conditions for funding the public charter school, including funding for the educational program to be provided by a residential charter school for at-risk students.” [Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-212.14]
FACILITIES FUNDS	No Additional Funds.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

- 3	Three points are deducted because the state has imposed a de facto cap by not encouraging or working to improve charter environment.
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[LINK TO THE VIRGINIA CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)