

# CALIFORNIA

(Law passed in 1992; 9th strongest of the nation's 43 charter laws)



## INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	School boards and county boards. A charter can apply directly to the State Board of Education if its schools will provide instructional services that may have impact statewide, not just within one district. If approved, school may operate multiple campuses throughout the state. The state board has not approved any statewide charters since High Tech High in 2006 (grade expansion in 2009) and Aspire Schools in 2007.
APPEAL	Yes. Applications denied by the school board may be appealed to the county board or the State Board of Education. Decisions by the state board are subject to judicial review and are binding, and the entity that approves the application becomes the school's sponsor.

## OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Yes. Blanket waiver from most rules and regulations governing traditional public schools. Oversight by state over time has become more burdensome. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted, but are heavily regulated.
LOCAL	Yes. Blanket waiver applies to most local policies, but districts have latitude to limit a charter's autonomy. Fiscal autonomy is subject to the district's terms and specified in the charter.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers may remain covered by the district bargaining agreement, negotiate as a separate unit with the charter school governing body, or work independently. If a charter school chooses to participate in the state teachers' retirement system, all qualified employees shall be covered.

## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	One hundred additional charters added each year. Unused charters roll over to the following year.
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## EQUITY

<p>STUDENT FUNDING</p>	<p>Funds pass through the district. Charters receive per pupil funding and additional categorical grants and funds from a multi-tiered formula, including property taxes, state aid and lottery funds. Charters receive only partial special education funds. Virtual schools receive base funding from a formula, which gives them less than conventional schools.</p> <p>“If an elementary school petitions either the governing board of the local school district or the State Board of Education to become a charter school, as specified in Section 47621 or 47622, that school shall receive state apportionments equal to the statewide average revenue limit for elementary schools plus funding as specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 47612. The superintendent shall annually compute the statewide average amount of general-purpose funding per unit of average daily attendance received by school districts for each of four grade level ranges. The superintendent shall apportion to each charter school this amount, less local funds allocated to the charter school pursuant to Section 47635. The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations setting forth criteria for the determination of funding for nonclassroom-based instruction.” [Cal Ed Code § 47623, 47634.1(c) and 47607(b)]</p>
<p>FACILITIES FUNDS</p>	<p>Propositions to help obtain facilities, but districts have not been following the letter of the law. No per pupil facilities funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposition 39 - School districts required to provide equivalent facilities to charter schools.</li> <li>• Propositions 1 and 47 - Charters may access facility funding directly from the state or through their school district.</li> <li>• The Charter School Revolving Loan Fund provides low-interest loans to new charter schools for facilities and other purposes. [Cal Ed Code § 41365]</li> <li>• The Charter School Facility Grant Program provides assistance with facilities, rent and lease costs for charter schools. Eligible schools can receive up to \$750 per unit of average daily attendance. [Cal Ed Code § 47614.5]</li> </ul>

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