

WASHINGTON

(Law passed in 2012; 17th weakest of the nation's 43 charter laws)



INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - "TECHNICALLY" YES (2)

APPROVAL	The State Charter School Commission (a quasi-independent body, and local boards, but only after approval by the state board.
APPEAL	None. The only course of action is to revise and re-submit application for reconsideration.

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Yes. Blanket waiver from most rules and regulations governing traditional public schools. The Department of Education oversees the commission and manages charter processes. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts restricted to nonprofit ESPs that meet certain criteria.
LOCAL	Limited. Free from many local, traditional rules and regulations.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers are not covered by the district bargaining agreement and may negotiate as a separate unit, or work independently. Charter schools are not required to participate in state's retirement system.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	Yes. Forty schools can be open over the next five years. No more than eight can be approved annually, and the unused spots can be rolled over to the next year.
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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	<p>Funds pass from state and district to school. Law states that per pupil funding will be calculated from a statewide average of a variety of categorical funding to public schools, but unclear if that will hold once law is in practice. Maximum four percent authorizer oversight fee can be retained.</p> <p>"(2) According to the schedule established under RCW 28A.510.250, the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate funding for a charter school including general apportionment, special education, categorical, and other nonbasic education moneys. Allocations must be based on the statewide average staff mix ratio of all noncharter public schools from the prior school year and the school's actual full-time equivalent enrollment. Categorical funding must be allocated to a charter school based on the same funding criteria used for noncharter public schools and the funds must be expended as provided in the charter contract. A charter school is eligible to apply for state grants on the same basis as a school district.[Section 222]"</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	No Additional Funds.

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