

APPENDIX A

AND THEN THERE WERE EIGHT...

A majority of the 43 charter school laws that currently exist were created in the mid to late 1990's, after the first charter school law was passed in Minnesota in 1991. Progress in the last decade and a half has substantially slowed.

After years of legislative attempts, the most recent state to pass charter school legislation is Washington in 2012. Today, eight states remain without charter school laws:

Alabama

Kentucky

Montana

Nebraska

North Dakota

South Dakota

Vermont

West Virginia

Every year, these remaining eight try to introduce charter school legislation, and 2015 already appears to be no different, as West Virginia and Alabama are the first of these states to introduce inaugural charter school legislation. However, even if these bills, or a bill in one of the other states was to pass, what is proposed is usually mediocre and would not produce a strong charter school environment.

Charter laws need to be enacted in these remaining states, but it must be the right type of law - one that holds charter schools accountable to independent authorizers, funds them 100 percent as conventional schools and gives them the operational freedom to be true innovators in education.

Note: This Appendix is based on the current status of charter school laws through March 9, 2015.