## NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS RANKING & SCORECARD—2025



| Grade                                 |                    | 4       | A.      |        |         |        |        |        |         |         |         |      |        |        |        |        |         |       |         |        |      |        |        |        |        | :     |       |        |       |        |         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| State                                 |                    | FL      | AZ      | IN     | МІ      | MN     | DC     | ID     | NY      | NC      | со      | IA   | WI     | sc     | UT     | ок     | тх      | wv    | он      | LA     | ND   | AR     | мо     | GA     | TN     | МТ    | WY    | MA     | NH    | NV     | PA      |
| Year law passed                       |                    | 1996    | 1994    | 2001   | 1993    | 1991   | 1996   | 1998   | 1998    | 1996    | 1993    | 2002 | 1993   | 1995   | 1998   | 1999   | 1996    | 2019  | 1997    | 1995   | 2025 | 1995   | 1998   | 1993   | 2002   | 2023  | 1995  | 1993   | 1995  | 1997   | 1997    |
| AUTHORIZATION                         | Possible<br>Points |         |         |        |         |        |        |        |         |         |         |      |        |        |        |        |         |       |         |        |      |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |       |        |         |
| Multiple Authorizers                  | 0 - 8              | 6       | 7       | 8      | 8       | 6      | 3      | 6      | 5       | 5       | 3       | 5    | 7      | 6      | 6      | 7      | 3       | 6     | 7       | 4      | 2    | 2      | 6      | 4      | 4      | 3     | 3     | 2      | 1     | 5      | 1       |
| Independence of Local/State Authority | 0 - 7              | 5       | 6       | 6      | 7       | 3      | 4      | 7      | 5       | 3       | 5       | 3    | 4      | 4      | 5      | 5      | 3       | 4     | 2       | 3      | 5    | 2      | 3      | 5      | 2      | 3     | 5     | 2      | 2     | 2      | 2       |
| Authorization Subtotal                | 0 - 15             | 11      | 13      | 14     | 15      | 9      | 7      | 13     | 10      | 8       | 8       | 8    | 11     | 10     | 11     | 12     | 6       | 10    | 9       | 7      | 7    | 4      | 9      | 9      | 6      | 6     | 8     | 4      | 3     | 7      | 3       |
| GROWTH                                |                    |         |         |        |         |        |        |        |         |         |         |      |        |        |        |        |         |       |         |        |      |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |       |        |         |
| No Charter Caps                       | 0 - 10             | 10      | 10      | 10     | 10      | 10     | 7      | 10     | 5       | 10      | 10      | 10   | 8      | 10     | 7      | 5      | 6       | 3     | 6       | 10     | 10   | 10     | 6      | 10     | 10     | 7     | 10    | 3      | 10    | 10     | 9       |
| Scaling Up                            | 0 - 5              | 5       | 4       | 2      | 2       | 3      | 3      | 3      | 3       | 5       | 3       | 3    | 2      | 3      | 3      | 3      | 3       | 1     | 4       | 3      | 0    | 3      | 2      | 2      | 3      | 0     | 1     | 3      | 1     | 3      | 1       |
| Growth Subtotal                       | 0 - 15             | 15      | 14      | 12     | 12      | 13     | 10     | 13     | 8       | 15      | 13      | 13   | 10     | 13     | 10     | 8      | 9       | 4     | 10      | 13     | 10   | 13     | 8      | 12     | 13     | 7     | 11    | 6      | 11    | 13     | 10      |
| OPERATIONS                            |                    |         |         |        |         |        |        |        |         |         |         |      |        |        |        |        |         |       |         |        |      |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |       |        |         |
| School Autonomy                       | 0 - 8              | 7       | 6       | 7      | 4       | 5      | 6      | 4      | 7       | 5       | 5       | 6    | 6      | 4      | 4      | 5      | 6       | 7     | 4       | 5      | 5    | 4      | 4      | 3      | 3      | 6     | 2     | 5      | 6     | 2      | 5       |
| Freedom to Innovate                   | 0 - 7              | 5       | 7       | 4      | 6       | 5      | 6      | 4      | 4       | 4       | 5       | 5    | 5      | 5      | 5      | 4      | 4       | 5     | 5       | 5      | 4    | 6      | 5      | 4      | 2      | 6     | 4     | 5      | 5     | 3      | 5       |
| Teacher Freedom                       | 0 - 5              | 5       | 5       | 4      | 3       | 3      | 5      | 3      | 3       | 4       | 4       | 4    | 3      | 4      | 3      | 5      | 5       | 4     | 3       | 3      | 3    | 5      | 3      | 3      | 3      | 5     | 3     | 4      | 4     | 3      | 3       |
| Operations Subtotal                   | 0 - 20             | 17      | 18      | 15     | 13      | 13     | 17     | 11     | 14      | 13      | 14      | 15   | 14     | 13     | 12     | 14     | 15      | 16    | 12      | 13     | 12   | 15     | 12     | 10     | 8      | 17    | 9     | 14     | 15    | 8      | 13      |
| EQUITY                                |                    |         |         |        |         |        |        |        |         |         |         |      |        |        |        |        |         |       |         |        |      |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |       |        |         |
| Operating Funds                       | 0 - 10             | 7       | 6       | 7      | 8       | 8      | 8      | 5      | 6       | 5       | 7       | 7    | 6      | 5      | 8      | 5      | 7       | 8     | 8       | 5      | 10   | 5      | 8      | 6      | 6      | 7     | 8     | 8      | 6     | 6      | 7       |
| Pre-K Funds                           | 0 - 2              | 0       | 0       | 0      | 1       | 2      | 2      | o      | 2       | 0       | 0       | 0    | 1      | 1      | o      | 2      | 2       | 2     | 0       | 1      | 0    | 0.5    | 1      | 0      | 0      | o     | 0     | 2      | 0     | 0      | o       |
| Facility Funds/Financing              | 0 - 5              | 3       | 2       | 1      | 0       | 3      | 4      | 1.5    | 3       | 2       | 1       | 0    | 0      | 0      | 1      | o      | 1       | 0     | 1       | 0      | 0    | 1      | o      | 0      | 4      | 0     | 0.5   | 2      | o     | 0.5    | 1       |
| Equity Subtotal                       | 0 - 17             | 10      | 8       | 8      | 9       | 13     | 14     | 6.5    | 11      | 7       | 8       | 7    | 7      | 6      | 9      | 7      | 10      | 10    | 9       | 6      | 10   | 6.5    | 9      | 6      | 10     | 7     | 8.5   | 12     | 6     | 6.5    | 8       |
| TOTAL SCORE                           | 0 - 67             | 53      | 53      | 49     | 49      | 48     | 48     | 44     | 43      | 43      | 43      | 43   | 42     | 42     | 42     | 41     | 41      | 40    | 40      | 39     | 39   | 39     | 38     | 37     | 37     | 37    | 37    | 36     | 35    | 35     | 34      |
| Letter Grade                          |                    | A-      | A-      | B+     | B+      | B+     | B+     | B-     | B-      | B-      | B-      | B-   | B-     | B-     | B-     | B-     | B-      | B-    | B-      | C+     | C+   | C+     | C+     | C+     | C+     | C+    | С     | С      | С     | C-     | C-      |
| Score/Percentage                      |                    | 92%     | 92%     | 88%    | 88%     | 88%    | 88%    | 82%    | 82%     | 82%     | 82%     | 82%  | 82%    | 82%    | 82%    | 82%    | 82%     | 82%   | 82%     | 78%    | 78%  | 78%    | 78%    | 78%    | 78%    | 78%   | 75%   | 75%    | 75%   | 72%    | 72%     |
| Rank                                  |                    | 1       | 2       | 3 ⊅    | 4       | 5      | 6 🕏    | 7 /    | 8 🗸     | 9 /     | 10      | 11 / | 12 🗷   | 13 📏   | 14 🕥   | 15 🕥   | 16 🕏    | 17 🕥  | 18 🕏    | 19 🕥   | 20 🇷 | 21 🕥   | 22 📏   | 23 🕥   | 24 🕥   | 25 🕥  | 26 /  | 27 🕥   | 28 🕥  | 29 🕥   | 30 🗸    |
| Rank (2024)                           |                    | 1       | 2       | 7      | 4       | 5      | 3      | 8      | 6       | 12      | 10      | 31   | 17     | 9      | 13     | 14     | 15      | 16    | 11      | 18     |      | 19     | 20     | 21     | 23     | 22    | 45    | 24     | 25    | 26     | 27      |
| Number of Charter Schools             |                    | 733     | 620     | 126    | 287     | 175    | 142    | 77     | 370     | 210     | 277     | 17   | 226    | 117    | 132    | 51     | 921     | 8     | 339     | 146    | o    | 110    | 81     | 104    | 114    | 17    | 9     | 73     | 38    | 80     | 175     |
| Number of Charter Students            |                    | 406,830 | 231,705 | 46,130 | 154,490 | 70,000 | 47,565 | 42,570 | 186,665 | 142,805 | 137,720 | 805  | 49,460 | 52,805 | 81,810 | 47,535 | 404,065 | 3,365 | 123,580 | 78,790 | 0    | 45,765 | 24,665 | 64,580 | 44,475 | 1,605 | 1,280 | 48,190 | 6,020 | 61,885 | 169,000 |

## NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS RANKING & SCORECARD—2025



| Grade                                 |        |       | С       |        |        | D      |       |        |      |        |       |       |        |       |        |       |        |        | F     |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|------|------|------|
| State                                 |        | AL    | CA      | NM     | ИЛ     | н      | MS    | OR     | KY   | DE     | AK    | KS    | IL     | VA    | ст     | ME    | RI     | MD     | WA    | NE   | SD   | VT   |
| Year law passed                       |        | 2015  | 1992    | 1993   | 1995   | 1994   | 2010  | 1999   | 2017 | 1995   | 1995  | 1994  | 1996   | 1998  | 1996   | 2011  | 1995   | 2003   | 2012  | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  |
| AUTHORIZATION Possible Points         |        |       |         |        |        |        |       |        |      |        |       |       |        |       |        |       |        |        |       |      |      |      |
| Multiple Authorizers                  | 0 - 8  | 2     | 1       | 3      | 2      | 3      | 3     | 1      | 1    | 2      | 2     | o     | 1      | 0     | 2      | 2     | 2      | 1      | 3     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Independence of Local/State Authority | 0 - 7  | 2     | 2       | 4      | 1      | 2      | 5     | 2      | 2    | 3      | 2     | 3     | 2      | 0     | 1      | 1     | 1      | 0      | 1     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Authorization Subtotal                | 0 - 15 | 4     | 3       | 7      | 3      | 5      | 8     | 3      | 3    | 5      | 4     | 3     | 3      | 0     | 3      | 3     | 3      | 1      | 4     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| GROWTH                                |        |       |         |        |        |        |       |        |      |        |       |       |        |       |        |       |        |        |       |      |      |      |
| No Charter Caps                       | 0 - 10 | 10    | 9       | 5      | 10     | 10     | 3     | 8      | 10   | 2      | 10    | 10    | o      | 10    | 3      | o     | 1      | 10     | 3     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Scaling Up                            | 0 - 5  | 1     | 2       | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1     | 1      | 0    | 1      | 1     | 1     | 2      | 0     | 0      | 0     | 2      | 0      | 0     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Growth Subtotal                       | 0 - 15 | 11    | 11      | 6      | 11     | 11     | 4     | 9      | 10   | 3      | 11    | 11    | 2      | 10    | 3      | o     | 3      | 10     | 3     | 0    | o    | 0    |
| OPERATIONS                            |        |       |         |        |        |        |       |        |      |        |       |       |        |       |        |       |        |        |       |      |      |      |
| School Autonomy                       | 0 - 8  | 5     | 5       | 4      | 3      | 4      | 4     | 5      | 2    | 5      | 2     | 4     | 5      | 2     | 4      | 6     | 3      | 1      | 5     | 0    | o    | 0    |
| Freedom to Innovate                   | 0 - 7  | 2     | 2       | 3      | 3      | 4      | 2     | 4      | 3    | 4      | 2     | 3     | 2      | 2     | 3      | 3     | 3      | 2      | 3     | 0    | o    | 0    |
| Teacher Freedom                       | 0 - 5  | 5     | 3       | 3      | 3      | o      | 3     | 3      | 4    | 3      | 0     | 2     | 3      | 1     | 3      | 3     | 2      | 0      | 3     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Operations Subtotal                   | 0 - 20 | 12    | 10      | 10     | 9      | 8      | 9     | 12     | 9    | 12     | 4     | 9     | 10     | 5     | 10     | 12    | 8      | 3      | 11    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| EQUITY                                |        |       |         |        |        |        |       |        |      |        |       |       |        |       |        |       |        |        |       |      |      |      |
| Operating Funds                       | 0 - 10 | 5     | 7       | 7      | 6      | 4      | 8     | 4      | 5    | 6      | 7     | 2     | 9      | 8     | 4      | 5     | 7      | 6      | 2     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Pre-K Funds                           | 0 - 2  | 0.5   | 0       | 1      | 2      | 2      | 0     | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0     | o     | o      | 0     | 2      | 2     | o      | 0      | 0     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Facility Funds/Financing              | 0 - 5  | 0     | 1       | 1      | 0.5    | o      | 0     | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0     | o     | o      | 0     | 0.5    | o     | o      | 0      | 0     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Equity Subtotal 0 - 17                |        | 5.5   | 8       | 9      | 8.5    | 6      | 8     | 4      | 5    | 6      | 7     | 2     | 9      | 8     | 6.5    | 7     | 7      | 6      | 2     | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| TOTAL SCORE                           | 0 - 67 | 33    | 32      | 32     | 32     | 30     | 29    | 28     | 27   | 26     | 26    | 25    | 24     | 23    | 23     | 22    | 21     | 20     | 20    | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Letter Grade                          |        | C-    | C-      | C-     | C-     | C-     | D+    | D+     | D+   | D      | D     | D     | D-     | D-    | D-     | D-    | D-     | D-     | D-    | F    | F    | F    |
| Score/Percentage                      |        | 72%   | 72%     | 72%    | 72%    | 72%    | 68%   | 68%    | 68%  | 65%    | 65%   | 65%   | 62%    | 62%   | 62%    | 62%   | 62%    | 62%    | 62%   | 50%  | 50%  | 50%  |
| Rank                                  |        | 31 🕥  | 32 📐    | 33 📐   | 34 🕥   | 35 🗸   | 36 🕏  | 37 🕥   | 38 📏 | 39 🕥   | 40 🕏  | 41 /  | 42 📐   | 43 /  | 44 🕏   | 45 🕥  | 46 🕏   | 47 🕥   | 48 🕏  | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  |
| Rank (2024)                           |        | 28    | 29      | 29     | 32     | 33     | 34    | 35     | 36   | 37     | 38    | 47    | 39     | 46    | 40     | 41    | 42     | 43     | 44    | 0    | o    | 0    |
| Number of Charter Schools             |        | 17    | 1,281   | 104    | 91     | 39     | 12    | 128    | 0    | 27     | 31    | 9     | 137    | 7     | 30     | 9     | 36     | 49     | 17    | 0    | O    | o    |
| Number of Charter Students            |        | 5,665 | 709,630 | 30,000 | 57,455 | 13,070 | 3,680 | 37,610 | o    | 19,030 | 7,285 | 2,485 | 60,855 | 1,290 | 10,885 | 2,330 | 13,465 | 24,800 | 4,830 | o    | o    | o    |

## **KEY FINDINGS**

Charter schools remain a key driving force of the education freedom movement, leading a wave of bold reforms in 2025 that expand access, promote equity, and spark innovation—giving families more control over how and where their children learn.

North Dakota became the 47th state to authorize charters, marking a historic shift and a strong debut at #13 in the national rankings. States like Iowa and Indiana rose sharply in the rankings due to laws that reduced barriers to entry and addressed long-standing funding disparities.

Across the country, charter schools are driving student-centered innovation, from specialized models in STEM, aerospace, and autism education to entrepreneurship and career readiness programs that meet the diverse needs of families. See more at yassprize.org/awardees.