



State Charter Laws Lottery and Enrollment

Updated August 2025

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	3	<i>Indiana</i>	23	<i>North Carolina</i>	43
<i>Summary of State Charter Laws for Lottery and Enrollment</i>	4	<i>Kansas</i>	26	<i>North Dakota</i>	45
<i>Alabama</i>	6	<i>Kentucky</i>	27	<i>Ohio</i>	46
<i>Alaska</i>	7	<i>Louisiana</i>	28	<i>Oklahoma</i>	47
<i>Arizona</i>	8	<i>Maine</i>	29	<i>Oregon</i>	48
<i>Arkansas</i>	9	<i>Maryland</i>	30	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	49
<i>California</i>	10	<i>Massachusetts</i>	31	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	50
<i>Colorado</i>	11	<i>Michigan</i>	32	<i>Rhode Island</i>	51
<i>Connecticut</i>	12	<i>Minnesota</i>	33	<i>South Carolina</i>	52
<i>Delaware</i>	13	<i>Mississippi</i>	34	<i>Tennessee</i>	53
<i>District of Columbia</i>	14	<i>Missouri</i>	35	<i>Texas</i>	54
<i>Florida</i>	15	<i>Montana</i>	36	<i>Utah</i>	55
<i>Georgia</i>	17	<i>Nevada</i>	37	<i>Virginia</i>	57
<i>Guam</i>	19	<i>New Hampshire</i>	39	<i>Washington</i>	58
<i>Hawai'i</i>	20	<i>New Jersey</i>	40	<i>West Virginia</i>	59
<i>Idaho</i>	21	<i>New Mexico</i>	41	<i>Wisconsin</i>	60
<i>Illinois</i>	22	<i>New York</i>	42	<i>Wyoming</i>	61

Introduction

WestEd monitors Charter Schools Program (CSP) grantees to assess the extent to which they implement their grant projects as approved and as required by law, in accordance with state and Federal regulations. One key area of monitoring is charter school lottery and enrollment practices, which vary by state.

Federal CSP statute requires charter schools to admit students on the basis of a lottery if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated. CSP grantees may use a weighted lottery to give slightly better chances of admission to all, or a subset of, educationally disadvantaged students if the weighted lottery (a) is not prohibited by state law, and state law is consistent with laws described in 4310(2)(G) and (b) is not used for the purpose of creating schools exclusively to serve a particular subset of students.

This document includes an at-a-glance overview of common lottery and enrollment practices and whether states require or allow specific preferences as well as detailed descriptions of each state's specific statute. Each state or territory with a charter law has a profile page that summarizes (a) required and allowable lottery practices and (b) required and allowable admission preferences. Much of this information is copied directly from each state's charter law or paraphrased for improved readability. The profile also includes a link to the state's charter law at the top of each page for verification of the information.¹

¹ As of August 2025, six states and territories did not have a charter law, including American Samoa, Nebraska, Northern Mariana Islands, South Dakota, Vermont, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These states and territories are not included in this document.

Summary of State Charter Laws for Lottery and Enrollment

States and territories with charter laws	Use of lottery if over enrolled	Use of a weighted lottery	Preference for enrollment based on location	Preference for students with prior year attendance	Preference for siblings of enrolled students	Preference for children of teachers, staff, founders, etc.
CSP	Required	With CSP approval	With CSP approval	Required	Allowed	Allowed
Alabama	Required	No	Required	Required	Required	Allowed
Alaska	Required	No	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Required	No	No	Required	Required	Allowed
Arkansas	Required	Allowed	No	No	Allowed	Allowed
California	Required	No	Required*	No	Allowed	Allowed
Colorado	Allowed	Allowed*	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Required	No	No	No	Allowed	No
Delaware	Required	No	Allowed	No	Allowed	Allowed
District of Columbia	Required	No	Required*	Required*	Required*	Allowed
Florida	Required	No	Required	No	Allowed	Allowed
Georgia	Required	Allowed	Allowed*	Allowed*	Allowed*	Allowed*
Guam	Required	No	Required*	Required	Required	No
Hawai'i	Required	Allowed	Required*	Allowed	Allowed	No
Idaho	Required	Allowed	Allowed*	Allowed*	Allowed*	Allowed*
Illinois	Required	No	Allowed	Required	Required	No
Indiana	Required	No	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Iowa	Required	No	No	No	Required	No
Kansas	Required	No	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	Required	No	Required	Required	Required	Allowed
Louisiana	Required	No	Allowed*	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Maine	Required	No	Required*	Required	Required	Allowed
Maryland	Required	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	No
Massachusetts	Required	No	Required*	Required*	Required*	No
Michigan	Required	No	No	Required	Allowed	Allowed

*In certain circumstances

Summary of State Charter Laws for Lottery and Enrollment *(continued)*

States and territories with charter laws	Use of lottery if over enrolled	Use of a weighted lottery	Preference for enrollment based on location	Preference for students with prior year attendance	Preference for siblings of enrolled students	Preference for children of teachers, staff, founders, etc.
<u>Minnesota</u>	Required	No	Required*	No	Required	Allowed
<u>Mississippi</u>	Required	No	Required*	Required	Required	Allowed
<u>Missouri</u>	Required	No	Allowed	No	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Montana</u>	Required	No	Required*	Required	Required	Allowed
<u>Nevada</u>	Required	Allowed	Required*	No	Allowed	Allowed
<u>New Hampshire</u>	Required	No	Required*	Required	No	No
<u>New Jersey</u>	Required	No	Required	Required	Allowed	No
<u>New Mexico</u>	Allowed	No	No	Required	Required*	Required
<u>New York</u>	Required	No	Required	Required	Required	Allowed
<u>North Carolina</u>	Required	Allowed	Required*	Required	Allowed	Allowed
<u>North Dakota</u>	Required	No	Yes	Required	Required	Allowed
<u>Ohio</u>	Required	No	Required*	Required	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Oklahoma</u>	Required	No	Required	No	No	No
<u>Oregon</u>	Required	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	No
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	Required	No	Required	No	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Puerto Rico</u>	Required	No	No	No	No	No
<u>Rhode Island</u>	Required	No	Required*	No	No	No
<u>South Carolina</u>	Required	Allowed	No	Required	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Tennessee</u>	Required	No	Required*	Required	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Texas</u>	Allowed	No	Required*	No	No	Allowed
<u>Utah</u>	Required	Allowed	Required*	No	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Virginia</u>	Required	No	Required*	No	Required*	No
<u>Washington</u>	Required	Allowed	No	No	Required	Allowed
<u>West Virginia</u>	Required	No	Required*	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Wisconsin</u>	Required	No	No	Required*	Required	Allowed
<u>Wyoming</u>	Required	No	Required*	Required	Required	No

*In certain circumstances

Alabama

Charter Law

An initial charter shall be granted for a term of five operating years. The charter term shall commence on the public charter school's first day of operation.

Lottery (Ala. Code § 16-6F-3)

If facility capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who wish to attend a start-up public charter school, the school shall select students through a random selection process.

Enrollment (Ala. Code § 16-6F-3)

Required

If selecting students through a random selection process:

- The school shall first enroll students who reside within the school system in which the public charter school is located. Then the school shall conduct a random selection process to enroll students who reside in the local school system.
- If the school has additional capacity after admitting students from the local school system, then the school shall admit any students without regard to their residency by a random selection process.

Any non-charter public school converting partially or entirely to a public charter school shall give enrollment preference to students who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

- After all students who reside within the former attendance area of that public school are enrolled, enrollment shall first be opened to students residing within the local school system.

A public charter school shall give enrollment preference to students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year and to siblings of students already enrolled in the public charter school.

A public charter school shall be open to any student residing in the state.

A public charter school shall enroll all students who wish to attend the school, unless the number of students exceeds the capacity of the facility identified for the public charter school.

Allowed

A public charter school may give enrollment preference to children of a public charter school's founders, governing board members, and full-time employees, so long as they constitute no more than 10 percent of the school's total student population.

A public charter school may give enrollment preference to children living within a certain geographical boundary, so long as the overall enrollment of the public charter school includes a majority of at-risk students. The proposed boundary shall be approved by the authorizer.

A public charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level and may be organized around a special emphasis, theme, or concept as stated in the school's charter application, but fluency or competence in the theme may not be used as a standard for enrollment.

Alaska

Charter Law

A contract for a charter school may be for a term of no more than 10 years.

Lottery (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.265)

A charter school shall enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application, unless the number of those applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building.

- In the event of an excess of those applications, the charter school and the local school board shall attempt to accommodate all of those applicants by considering providing additional classroom space and assigning additional teachers from the district to the charter school.
- If it is not possible to accommodate all eligible students who submit a timely application, students shall be accepted by random drawing. A school board may not require a student to attend a charter school.

Enrollment (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.265)

Required

None

Allowed

The program of a charter school may be designed to serve:

- Students within an age group or grade level;
- Students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum; or
- Nonresident students, including providing domiciliary services for students who need those services, if approved by the board.

Arizona

Charter Law

The charter is effective for 15 years from the first day of the fiscal year as specified in the charter and may be renewed for successive periods of 20 years.

Lottery (Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-184)

If remaining capacity is insufficient to enroll all pupils who submit a timely application, the charter school shall select pupils through an equitable selection process such as a lottery.

Enrollment (Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-184)

Required

A charter school shall give enrollment preference to pupils who are returning to the charter school in the second or any subsequent year of its operation and;

To siblings of pupils who are already enrolled in the charter school.

Allowed

A charter school may give enrollment preference to children who are in foster care or meet the definition of unaccompanied youth.

A charter school may give enrollment preference to and reserve capacity for pupils who either:

- Are children, grandchildren, or legal wards of any of the following:
 - Employees of the school
 - Employees of the charter holder
 - Members of the governing body of the school
 - Directors, officers, partners, or board members of the charter holder
- Attended another charter school or are the siblings of that pupil if the charter school previously attended by the pupil has the identical charter holder, board and governing board membership as the enrolling charter school or is managed by the same educational management organization, charter management organization or educational service provider as determined by the charter authorizer

A charter school may limit admission to pupils within a given age group or grade level.

A charter school may provide instruction to pupils of a single gender with the approval of the sponsor of the charter school. An existing charter school may amend its charter to provide instruction to pupils of a single gender and, if approved by the sponsor of the charter school, may provide instruction to pupils of a single gender at the beginning of the next school year.

A charter school may refuse to admit any pupil who has been expelled from another educational institution or who is in the process of being expelled from another educational institution.

Arkansas

Charter Law

The authorizer may renew charters of **conversion public charter schools** on a one-year or multiyear basis, not to exceed five years, after the initial five-year period if the renewal is approved by the local school district board of directors.

After the initial five-year period of an **open-enrollment public charter**, the authorizer may renew the open-enrollment public charter on a one-year or multiyear basis, not to exceed 20 years.

Lottery (Ark. Code § 6-23-306)

The **open-enrollment public charter school** may allow a weighted lottery to be used in the student selection process when necessary to comply with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments of 1972, the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, a court order, or a Federal or state law requiring desegregation.

Except as, if more eligible students apply for a first-time admission than the open-enrollment public charter school is able to accept the open-enrollment public charter must use a random, anonymous student selection method that shall be described in the charter application.

Enrollment (Ark. Code § 6-23-306)

Required

None

Allowed

An open-enrollment public charter school may allow a preference for:

- Children of the founding members and children of full-time employees and teachers of the eligible entity
- The number of enrollment preferences granted to children of founding members and children of full-time employees and teachers shall not exceed 10 percent of the total number of students enrolled in the open-enrollment public charter school; and
- Siblings of students currently enrolled in the open-enrollment public charter school

The open-enrollment public charter school may adopt admissions policies that are consistent with Federal law, regulations, or guidelines applicable to charter schools.

The open-enrollment public charter may provide for the exclusion of a student who has been expelled from another public school district in the same manner as a board of directors of a public school district.

A person who is at least nineteen years of age may enroll in an adult education charter school if the person has:

- Not earned a high school diploma and
- Failed to complete the requirements for high school graduation

California

Charter Law

A charter may be granted pursuant for a period not to exceed five years.

The chartering authority that granted the charter may renew a charter for a period of between five and seven years.

Lottery (Cal. Educ. Code § 47605)

If the number of pupils who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the charter school's capacity, attendance, except for existing pupils of the charter school, shall be determined by a public random drawing.

Enrollment (Cal. Educ. Code § 47605)

Required

Preference shall be extended to pupils currently attending the charter school and pupils who reside in the school district.

Admission to a charter school shall not be determined according to the place of residence of the pupil, or of that pupil's parent or legal guardian, within this state, except that an existing public school converting partially or entirely to a charter school under this part shall adopt and maintain a policy giving admission preference to pupils who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

Allowed

Preferences, including, but not limited to, siblings of pupils admitted or attending the charter school and children of the charter school's teachers, staff, and founders identified in the initial charter, may also be permitted by the chartering authority on an individual charter school basis.

Colorado

Charter Law

When a local board of education or the state charter school institute approves a new charter application, the charter is authorized for a period of at least four years.

Lottery

None

Enrollment (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-30.5-104)

Required

Greater consideration must be given to charter school applications designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk pupils. At-risk pupils are defined as pupils who, because of physical, emotional, socioeconomic, or cultural factors, are less likely to succeed in a conventional educational environment.

Enrollment in a charter school must be open to any child who resides within the school district.

Allowed

A charter school may give preference to enrolling children with disabilities. Upon approval of the local board of education, the charter school may develop and implement an enrollment preference plan to increase the enrollment of children with disabilities. In exercising the enrollment preference plan for children with disabilities, a charter school shall ensure compliance with the obligation to provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment pursuant to the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Connecticut

Charter Law

After an initial certificate of approval for a charter for a local charter school is deemed a charter, such charter may be valid for a period of time of up to five years.

- The state board may allow the applicant to delay its opening for a period of up to one school year in order for the applicant to fully prepare to provide appropriate instructional services.

Lottery (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-66bb)

If there is not space available for all students seeking enrollment the school shall determine enrollment by a lottery, except the state board of education may waive the requirements for such enrollment lottery pursuant to subsection (j) of this section.

Enrollment (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-66bb)

Required

None

Allowed

The school may give preference to siblings.

Delaware

Charter Law

A charter is granted for an initial period of four school years of operation and renewable every five school years thereafter by a public school district or the state department of education.

Lottery (Del. Code tit. 14 § 506)

A charter school may not restrict student admissions except by lottery in the case of over-enrollment.

Enrollment (Del. Code tit. 14 § 506)

Required

None

Allowed

Preferences in student admissions may be given to:

- Siblings of students currently enrolled at the school;
- Students attending an existing public school converted to charter status. Parents of students at a school converted to charter status shall be provided with a plan the district will use to address the educational needs of students who will not be attending the charter school;
- Students enrolling in a new (nonconverted) charter school may be given preference under the following circumstances as long as the school has described its preferences in the school's charter:
 - Students residing within a five-mile radius of the school;
 - Students residing within the regular school district in which the school is located;
 - Students who have a specific interest in the school's teaching methods, philosophy, or educational focus;
 - Students who are at risk of academic failure; and
 - Children of persons employed on a permanent basis for at least 30.0 hours per week during the school year by the charter school.
- Children of a school's founders, so long as they constitute no more than 5 percent of the school's total student population. For the purposes of this paragraph "founder" shall not include anyone whose sole significant contribution to the school was monetary, but otherwise shall be determined by the founding board of directors subject to department of education regulations.

District of Columbia

Charter Law

A charter granted to a public charter school shall remain in force for a 15-year period.

A charter may be renewed for an unlimited number of times, each time for a 15-year period.

Lottery (D.C. Code § 38-1802.06)

If there are more applications to enroll in a public charter school from students who are residents of the District of Columbia than there are spaces available, students shall be admitted using a random selection process.

Enrollment (D.C. Code § 38-1802.06)

Required

Conversion schools must give enrollment priority to:

- Students who were enrolled in the school at the time the charter school petition was granted
- Siblings of previously enrolled students
- Students who reside within the attendance boundaries, if any, in which the school is located

Enrollment in a public charter school shall be open to all students who are residents of the District of Columbia and, if space is available, to nonresident students who meet the tuition requirement.

Allowed

A preference in admission may be given to an applicant who is a:

- Sibling or child of a student already attending or selected for admission to the public charter school in which the applicant is seeking enrollment;
- Child of a member of the public charter school's founding board; provided, that enrollment of such children is limited to no more than 10 percent of the school's total enrollment or to 20 students, whichever is less; and
- Child of a full-time employee of the public charter school who is a District of Columbia resident; provided, that enrollment of such children is limited to no more than 10 percent of the school's total enrollment

Florida

Charter Law

The initial term of a charter shall be for five years, excluding two planning years.

In order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the sponsor. **A charter lab school** is eligible for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the sponsor. Such long-term charters remain subject to annual review.

A charter school may defer the opening of the school's operations for up to three years to provide time for adequate facility planning.

Lottery (Fla. Stat. § 1002.33)

The charter school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In such case, all applicants shall have an equal chance of being admitted through a random selection process.

Enrollment (Fla. Stat. § 1002.33)

Required

When a public school converts to charter status, enrollment preference shall be given to students who would have otherwise attended that public school.

Admission or dismissal must not be based on a student's academic performance, except as authorized.

A **virtual charter school**, when enrolling students, shall comply with the applicable requirements and with enrollment requirements.

A **charter lab school** shall be open to any student eligible to attend the lab school or who resides in the school district in which the charter lab school is located.

Any eligible student shall be allowed interdistrict transfer to attend a charter school when based on good cause. Good cause shall include, but is not limited to, geographic proximity to a charter school in a neighboring school district.

Allowed

A charter school may give enrollment preference to the following student populations:

- Students who are siblings of a student enrolled in the charter school
- Students who are the children of a member of the governing board of the charter school
- Students who are the children of an employee of the charter school
- Students who are the children of:
 - An employee of the business partner of a charter school or a resident of the municipality in which such charter school is located; or
 - A resident or employee of a municipality that operates a charter school or allows a charter school to use a school facility or portion of land provided by the municipality
- Students who have successfully completed, during the previous year, a voluntary prekindergarten education program provided by the charter school, or a voluntary prekindergarten provider that has a written agreement with the governing board
- Students who are the children of an active-duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces
- Students who attended or are assigned to failing schools
- Students who are the children of a safe-school officer at the school

Florida (continued)

Charter Law (Updated 2023)

Enrollment

Allowed (continued)

A charter school may limit the enrollment process only to target the following student populations:

- Students within specific age groups or grade levels
- Students considered at risk of dropping out of school or academic failure. Such students shall include exceptional education students
- Students enrolling in a charter school-in-the-workplace or charter school-in-a-municipality
- Students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school
- Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or other eligibility standards established by the charter school and included in the charter school application and charter or, in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such standards shall be in accordance with current state law and practice in public schools and may not discriminate against otherwise qualified individuals. A school that limits enrollment for such purposes must place a student on a progress monitoring plan for at least one semester before dismissing such student from the school.
- Students articulating from one charter school to another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter schools that has been approved by the sponsor
- Students living in a development in which a developer, including any affiliated business entity or charitable foundation, contributes to the formation, acquisition, construction, or operation of one or more charter schools or charter school facilities and related property in an amount equal to or having a total appraised value of at least five million to be used as charter schools to mitigate the educational impact created by the development of new residential dwelling units. Students living in the development are entitled to 50 percent of the student stations in the charter schools. The students who are eligible for enrollment are subject to a random lottery, the racial/ethnic balance provisions, or any Federal provisions.

Georgia

Charter Law

The initial term of a charter, except for a charter system or a local charter school that has transferred its authorization to the state charter schools commission pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2063.3, shall be for a minimum of five years, unless the petitioner shall request a shorter period of time, and shall not exceed 10 years.

The state board may renew the charter of a charter system, upon the request of the local board, for the period of time specified in the request, not to exceed 10 years.

Lottery (Ga. Code § 20-2-2066)

If the number of applying students exceeds the capacity as specified in the charter, additional students shall be enrolled based on a random selection process.

Except for educationally disadvantaged students who may be provided an increased chance of admission through a weighted lottery if permitted by the school's charter, all such applicants shall have an equal chance of being admitted through a random selection process unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Enrollment (Ga. Code § 20-2-2066)

Required

A charter school shall enroll any student who resides in the attendance zone specified in the charter and who submits a timely application as specified in the charter unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. The governing board of the charter school shall require proof of residency either at the time of application or enrollment.

Allowed

A state centered special charter school or start-up charter school may give enrollment preference to applicants in any one or more of the following categories in the order of priority specified in charter:

- A sibling of a student enrolled in the state chartered special school;
- A sibling of a student enrolled in another local school designated in the charter;
- A student whose parent or guardian is a member of the governing board of the state chartered special school or is a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee at the state chartered special school;
- Students matriculating from a local school designated in the charter; and
- Children who matriculate from a Pre-K program which is associated with the state chartered special school, including, but not limited to, programs which share common facilities or campuses with the school or programs which have established a partnership or cooperative efforts with the school.

A conversion charter school may give enrollment preference to applicants in any one or more of the following categories in the order of priority specified in charter:

- A sibling of a student enrolled in the conversion charter school or in any school in the high school cluster;
- A student whose parent or guardian is a member of the governing board of the conversion charter school or is a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee at the conversion charter school;
- Students who were enrolled in the local school prior to its becoming a conversion charter school;

Georgia (continued)

Charter Law

Enrollment

Allowed (continued)

- Students who reside in the attendance zone specified in the charter;
- Children who matriculate from a Pre-K program which is associated with the school, including, but not limited to, programs which share common facilities or campuses with the school or programs which have established a partnership or cooperative efforts with the school; and
- A student who resides outside the school system in which the local charter school is located may not enroll in that local charter school except pursuant to a contractual agreement between the local boards of the school system in which the student resides and the school system in which the local charter school is located. Unless otherwise provided in such contractual agreement, a local charter school may give enrollment preference to a sibling of a nonresident student currently enrolled in the local charter school.

Guam

Charter Law

Called an academy charter school

A charter granted to an academy charter school shall remain in force for a six-year period, unless revoked.

A charter may be renewed an unlimited number of times, each time for a six-year period.

Lottery (17 Guam Code § 12109)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who submit a timely application, the academy charter school shall select students through an equitable selection process such as a lottery.

Enrollment (17 Guam Code § 12109)

Required

An academy charter school shall give enrollment preference to students returning to the academy charter school in the second or any subsequent year of its operation and to siblings of students already enrolled in the academy charter school.

A public school converted to an academy charter school shall give enrollment preference to students attending the public school prior to conversion and students who reside within the former attendance zone of that converted public school.

An academy charter school shall enroll all students who submit a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building.

Allowed

An academy charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level.

An academy charter school may refuse to admit any student who has been expelled from another educational institution or who is in the process of being expelled from another educational institution.

For schools preparing students for specific professions, admissions may be limited to students who meet Bona Fide Occupational Qualifications selection criteria for the profession. [If] the profession exists in an equivalent government position, the admissions criteria may be based on the government of Gu[a]m's employment selection criteria.

Hawai‘i

Charter Law

The term of duration of the initial charter contract shall not exceed five years, not including the pre-opening period.

A charter contract may be renewed for successive five-year terms of duration, although an authorizer may vary the terms based on performance, demonstrated capacities, and particular circumstances of each charter school.

Lottery (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302D-34)

A charter school shall select students through a public lottery if capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who have submitted a timely application.

Enrollment (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302D-34)

Required

A conversion charter school shall:

- Enroll any student who resides within the school’s former geographic service area, for the grades that were in place when the department school converted to a charter school.

A start-up charter school:

- Shall be open to any student residing in the state who is entitled to attend a department school.
- Shall enroll all students who submit an application.

Allowed

A start-up charter school:

- May give an enrollment preference to students within a given age group or grade level and may be organized around a special emphasis, theme, or concept as stated in the charter school’s application and as approved by the charter school’s authorizer;
- May give an enrollment preference to students enrolled in the charter school during the previous school year and to siblings of students already enrolled at the charter school;
- May give an enrollment preference through a weighted lottery to educationally disadvantaged students;
- May give any other enrollment preference permitted by the charter school’s authorizer, on an individual charter school basis, if consistent with law.

A student who is currently enrolled in a charter school may be given first priority to enroll at another charter school to which the student applies, or placed at the top of the waitlist for enrollment.

Idaho

Charter Law

Following the initial three-year term, an authorized chartering entity grant renewal for an additional five years, based on the performance of the public charter school on the performance indicators, measures and metrics contained in the performance certificate.

Subsequent renewals shall be for a term of five years.

Lottery (Idaho Code § 33-5206)

Admission procedures, including provision for over enrollment, shall provide that the initial admission procedures for a new public charter school or replication public charter school will be determined by lottery or other random method, except as otherwise provided.

If so stated in its petition, a public charter school may weight the school's lottery to preference admission for the following educationally disadvantaged students: students living at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, students who are homeless or in foster care, children with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency, and students who are at-risk.

Enrollment (Idaho Code § 33-5206)

Required

None

Allowed

The admission procedures may provide that preference shall be given in the following order:

- First, to children of founders, provided that this admission preference shall be limited to not more than 10 percent of the capacity of the public charter school;
- Second, to siblings of pupils already selected by the lottery or other random method;
- Third, to pupils seeking to transfer from another Idaho public charter school at which they have been enrolled for at least one year;
- Fourth, to students residing within the primary attendance area of the public charter school; and
- Fifth, by an equitable selection process such as a lottery or other random method.

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all pupils who submit a timely application for subsequent school terms, then the admission procedures may provide that preference shall be given in the following order:

- First, to pupils returning to the public charter school in the second or any subsequent year of its operation;
- Second, to children of founders, provided that this admission preference shall be limited to not more than 10 percent of the capacity of the public charter school;
- Third, to siblings of pupils already enrolled in the public charter school.
- Fourth, to pupils seeking to transfer from another Idaho public charter school at which they have been enrolled for at least one year;
- Fifth, to students residing within the primary attendance area of the public charter school; and
- Sixth, by an equitable selection process such as a lottery or other random method.

Illinois

Charter Law

An initial charter shall be granted for a period of five school years. A charter may be renewed in incremental periods not to exceed 10 school years.

Lottery (105 ILCS 5/27A-4)

If there are more eligible applicants for enrollment in a charter school than there are spaces available, successful applicants shall be selected by lottery.

Any lottery must be administered in a way that provides each student an equal chance at admission.

Any lottery required must be administered and videotaped by the charter school. The authorizer or its designee must be allowed to be present or view the lottery in real time. The charter school must maintain a videotaped record of the lottery, including a time/date stamp.

Enrollment (105 ILCS 5/27A-4)

Required

Priority shall be given to siblings of pupils enrolled in the charter school and to pupils who were enrolled in the charter school the previous school year, unless expelled for cause.

A pupil who is suspended or expelled from a charter school shall be deemed to be suspended or expelled from the public schools of the school district in which the pupil resides.

Enrollment in a charter school shall be open to any pupil who resides within the geographic boundaries of the area served by the local school board.

Allowed

The board of education in a city having a population exceeding 500,000 may designate attendance boundaries for no more than one-third of the charter schools permitted in the city if the board of education determines that attendance boundaries are needed to relieve overcrowding or to better serve low-income and at-risk students.

Students residing within an attendance boundary may be given priority for enrollment.

Indiana

Charter Law

A charter school must be granted for:

- Not less than three years or more than 15 years;
- A fixed number of years agreed to by the authorizer and the organizer.

Lottery (Ind. Code § 20-24-5-5)

If a charter school receives a greater number of applications than there are spaces for students, each timely applicant must be given an equal chance of admission. The organizer must determine which of the applicants will be admitted by random drawing in a public meeting, with each timely applicant limited to one entry in the drawing.

Enrollment (Ind. Code § 20-24-5-1; Ind. Code § 20-24-5-4; Ind. Code § 20-24-5-5)

Required

A charter school, including a conversion charter school, must be open to any student who resides in Indiana.

Except as provided, a virtual charter school may not enroll a student unless the student is an Indiana resident.

Allowed

A charter school may limit new admissions to the charter school to:

- Ensure that a student who attends the charter school during a school year may continue to attend the charter school in subsequent years;
- Ensure that a student who attends a charter school during a school year may continue to attend a different charter school held by the same organizer in subsequent years;
- Allow the siblings of a student alumnus or a current student who attends a charter school or a charter school held by the same organizer to attend the same charter school the student is attending, or the student alumnus attended;
- Allow preschool students to attend kindergarten at a charter school if the charter school and the preschool provider have entered into an agreement to share services or facilities;
- Allow each student who qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch under the national school lunch program to receive preference for; and
- Allow each student who attends a charter school that is co-located with the charter school to receive preference for admission to the charter school.

During the school year in which the existing school converts to a charter school, the charter school may limit admission to:

- Those students who were enrolled in the charter school on the date of the conversion; and
- Siblings of students.

Indiana (continued)

Charter Law

Enrollment

Allowed (continued)

A charter school may give enrollment preference to children of the charter school's founders, governing body members, and charter school employees, as long as the enrollment preference under this subsection is not given to more than 10 percent of the charter school's total population.

A charter school may give enrollment preference to children who attend another charter school that is closed or non-renewed.

A charter school may operate as a single gender school if approved to do so by the authorizer. A single gender charter school must be open to any student of the gender the school serves who resides in Indiana.

Iowa

Charter Law

An initial charter school contract shall be granted for a term of five school budget years.

An approved charter school may delay its opening for a period of time not to exceed one school year in order to plan and prepare for the charter school's opening.

Lottery (Iowa Code § 256F.4)

A charter school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In this case, students must be accepted by lot.

Enrollment (Iowa Code § 256F.4)

Required

Enrollment priority shall be given to the siblings of students enrolled in a charter school.

Allowed

A charter school may limit admission to students who are within a particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other basis that would be legal if initiated by a school district.

Kansas

Charter Law

Whenever a charter school has been approved for establishment or continuation, no other approval shall be required for a period of five school years.

Renewal of the charter school shall be approved only if the charter school has demonstrated progress in achieving the program goals.

Lottery (Kan. Stat. § 72-4208)

The charter must contain criteria for admission of pupils, including a description of the lottery method to be used if too many pupils seek enrollment in the school.

Enrollment

Required

None

Allowed

None

Kentucky

Charter Law

Kentucky charter law was found unconstitutional at time of publication.

The charter contract shall be for a five-year term.

A charter contract may be renewed by the authorizer for a term of duration of five years, although the authorizer may vary the term to as few as three years.

Lottery (Ky. Rev. Stat. § 160.1592)

A public charter school shall conduct an admissions lottery if capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who wish to attend the school and ensure that every student has a fair opportunity to be considered in the lottery and that the lottery is competently conducted, equitable, randomized, transparent, impartial, and in accordance with targeted student population and service community.

Enrollment (Ky. Rev. Stat. § 160.1591)

Required

Enrollment preference for a conversion public charter school shall be given to students who attended the school the previous school year. If the number of students enrolled does not exceed the capacity of the school, secondary preference shall be given to students who reside within the district boundary in which the public charter school is located.

Enrollment preference for public charter schools identified as an urban academy in the charter contract shall be given to students who live in close proximity to the school, as governed by the charter contract.

Enrollment preference for public charter schools shall be given to students enrolled in the public charter school the previous year and to siblings of students already enrolled in the school. The enrollment preference for returning students shall exclude those students from entering into a lottery.

Allowed

Enrollment preference may be given to the children of the public charter school's board of directors and full-time employees of the public charter school provided they constitute no more than 10 percent of the total student population.

A public charter school may allow an enrollment preference for students who meet Federal eligibility requirements for free or reduced-price meals and students who attend persistently low-achieving noncharter public schools.

Louisiana

Charter Law

Unless revoked, an approved school charter shall be valid for an initial period of four years and may be extended for a maximum initial term of five years.

The charter may be renewed for additional periods of not less than three nor more than 10 years after thorough review.

Lottery (La. Stat. tit. 17 § 3991)

If the total number of eligible applicants exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school, admission to the program, class, grade level, or school shall be based on an admissions lottery conducted from among the total number of eligible applicants.

Enrollment (La. Stat. tit. 17 § 3991)

Required

None

Allowed

A charter school may modify its enrollment procedures in order to give preference to students previously enrolled in the school and their siblings and to give preference to siblings.

A charter school may directly enroll the child of a faculty member if the child meets all admission requirements for the school.

A charter school with a foreign immersion mission may directly enroll the child of a foreign consular officer who resides in Louisiana if the child meets all mission-related and academic admission requirements established for the school.

Each elementary and middle charter school may request from and be granted by its chartering authority the authority to give preference in its enrollment procedures to students residing within the neighborhood immediately surrounding the school. The geographic boundaries of the neighborhood immediately surrounding such school shall be determined by the school's chartering authority.

Admission requirements may include specific requirements related to a school's mission such as auditions for schools with a performing arts mission or proficiency in a foreign language for schools with a language immersion mission.

Maine

Charter Law

An initial charter must be granted for a term of five operating years. An approved public charter school may delay its opening for one school year in order to plan and prepare for the school's opening.

A charter may be renewed for successive terms of five years, although an authorizer may grant a renewal for a term not to exceed 15 years based on the performance.

Lottery (Me. Stat. tit. 20-A § 2404)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who wish to attend the school, the public charter school shall select students through a random selection process.

- A list maintained to fill potential vacancies may be carried over to the succeeding year.

Enrollment (Me. Stat. tit. 20-A § 2404)

Required

A public charter school shall enroll students in accordance with this subsection.

- A public charter school shall adopt and maintain a policy that gives enrollment preference to pupils who reside within a school administrative unit whose school board authorizes that public charter school or within the former attendance area of that noncharter public school.
- A public charter school shall give enrollment preference to pupils enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year and to siblings of pupils already enrolled in the public charter school.
- A public charter school shall enroll all students who wish to attend the school, unless the number of students exceeds the enrollment capacity of a program, class, grade level or building.
- For a school administrative unit with an enrollment of 500 or fewer students, a public charter school, may not enroll more than 5 percent of a school administrative unit's noncharter public school students per grade level in each of the first three years of the public charter school's operation.
- For a school administrative unit with an enrollment of more than 500 students, a public charter school, unless authorized by a school administrative unit, may not enroll more than 10 percent of a school administrative unit's noncharter public school students per grade level in each of the first three years of the public charter school's operation.

Allowed

A public charter school may give enrollment preference to children of a public charter school's founders, governing board members and full-time employees, as long as they constitute no more than 10 percent of the school's total student population.

A public charter school may enroll students from outside the state if space is available.

A public charter school may limit enrollment to pupils within a given age group or grade level and may be organized around a special emphasis, theme or concept as stated in the school's application.

Maryland

Charter Law

No details on initial term and renewal

Lottery (Md. Code Educ. § 9-102.2)

The public charter school shall admit students on a lottery basis to its remaining available space.

A public charter school may give greater weight to a student's lottery status as part of a lottery if the student is eligible for free or reduced price meals; a student with disabilities; a student with limited English proficiency; homeless, as defined under the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or a sibling of a student currently enrolled in the public charter school for which the sibling is applying.

Enrollment (Md. Code Educ. § 9-102.2)

Required

None

Allowed

A public charter school may give greater weight to a student's lottery status as part of a lottery if the student is:

- Eligible for free or reduced-price meals;
- A student with disabilities;
- A student with limited English proficiency;
- Homeless, as defined under the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
- A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the public charter school for which the sibling is applying.

A public charter school may give priority to the sibling of a student admitted through the lottery process or a currently enrolled student for any spaces in the school that become available throughout the school year.

A public charter school may provide guaranteed placement through a lottery to students who live within the geographic attendance area for up to 35 percent, as proposed by the public charter school and approved by the public chartering authority, of the available space of the public charter school.

If a public charter school does not fill 100 percent of its available space, the public charter school may admit more than the percentage of students from the geographic attendance area.

Massachusetts

Charter Law

A **commonwealth charter school** shall be a public school, operated under a charter granted by the board, which operates independently of a school committee and is managed by a board of trustees.

A **Horace Mann charter school** shall be a public school or part of a public school operated under a charter approved by the school committee and the local collective bargaining unit in the district in which the school is located, provided that all charters shall be granted by the board of elementary and secondary education.

Lottery (Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 71 § 89)

If the total number of students who are eligible to attend and apply to a charter school and who reside in the city or town in which the charter school is located or are siblings of students already attending said charter school, is greater than the number of spaces available, an admissions lottery, including all eligible students applying, shall be held to fill all of the spaces in that school from among the students.

A lottery conducted for **Horace Mann charter schools** shall reflect the enrollment priorities of this section.

Enrollment (Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 71 § 89)

Required

Preference for enrollment in a **commonwealth charter school** shall be given to students who reside in the city or town in which the charter school is located.

Priority for enrollment in a **Horace Mann charter school** shall be given first to students actually enrolled in the school on the date that the application is filed with the board and to their siblings; second to other students actually enrolled in the public schools of the district where the Horace Mann charter school is to be located; and third to other resident students.

A **regional charter school** shall continue to grant a preference of siblings of currently enrolled students.

Allowed

Charter schools may limit enrollment to specific grade levels and may structure curriculum around particular areas of focus such as mathematics, science or the arts.

Michigan

Charter Law

Called public school academies

A contract issued to organize and administer a public-school academy must contain the term of the contract and a description of the process and standards for renewal of the contract at the end of the term.

The standards for renewal must include increases in academic achievement for all groups of pupils as measured by assessments and other objective criteria as the most important factor in the decision of whether or not to renew the contract.

Lottery (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.504)

If there are more applications to enroll in the public-school academy than there are spaces available, pupils shall be selected to enroll using a random selection process.

Enrollment (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.504)

Required

A public-school academy shall allow any pupil who was enrolled in the public-school academy in the immediately preceding school year to enroll in the public-school academy in the appropriate grade unless the appropriate grade is not offered at that public school academy.

Except for a foreign exchange student who is not a United States citizen, a public-school academy shall not enroll a pupil who is not a resident of this state.

Allowed

A public-school academy may give enrollment priority to one or more of the following:

- A sibling of a pupil enrolled in the public-school academy.
- A pupil who transfers to the public-school academy from another public school pursuant to a matriculation agreement, if all of the following requirements are met:
 - Each public school that enters into the matriculation agreement remains a separate and independent public school.
 - The public-school academy that gives the enrollment priority selects at least 5 percent of its pupils for enrollment using a random selection process.
 - The matriculation agreement allows any pupil who was enrolled at any time during elementary school in a public school that is party to the matriculation agreement and who was not expelled from the public school to enroll in the public-school academy giving enrollment priority under the matriculation agreement.
- A child of a person who is employed by or at the public-school academy or who is on the board of directors of the public-school academy.

A public-school academy may limit admission to pupils who are within a particular range of age or grade level or on any other basis that would be legal if used by a school district and may give enrollment priority.

Minnesota

Charter Law

The term of the contract, for an initial contract, may be up to five years plus a pre-operational planning period.

For a renewed contract or a contract with a new authorizer after a transfer of authorizers, may be up to five years, if warranted by the school's academic, financial, and operational performance.

A charter school board may voluntarily enter into a two-year, renewable collaboration agreement with a school district in which the charter school is geographically located to enhance the achievement of the students in the district and the students in the charter school. A school district does not need to be either an approved authorizer or the authorizer of the charter school to enter into a collaboration agreement under this section.

Lottery (Minn. Stat. § 124E.11)

If the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the program, pupils must be accepted by lot. The charter school must develop and publish, including on its website, a lottery policy and process that it must use when accepting pupils by lot.

Enrollment (Minn. Stat. § 124E.11)

Required

A charter school must enroll an eligible pupil who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building.

A charter school must give enrollment preference to a Minnesota resident pupil over pupils that do not reside in Minnesota. A charter school must require a pupil who does not reside in Minnesota to annually apply to enroll.

A charter school must give enrollment preference to a sibling of an enrolled pupil and to a foster child of that pupil's parents.

A charter school that is located in Duluth township in St. Louis County and admits students in kindergarten through grade six must give enrollment preference to students residing within a five-mile radius of the school and to the siblings of enrolled children.

Allowed

A charter school may give preference for enrolling children of the school's staff before accepting other pupils by lot.

A charter school with at least 90 percent of enrolled students who are eligible for special education services and have a primary disability of deaf or hard-of-hearing may enroll prekindergarten pupils with a disability.

A charter school serving at least 90 percent of enrolled students who are eligible for special education services and have a primary disability of deaf, deafblind, or hard-of-hearing may give enrollment preference to students who are eligible for special education services and have a primary disability of deaf, deafblind, or hard-of-hearing.

A charter school, may limit admission to:

- Pupils within an age group or grade level;
- Pupils who are eligible to participate in the graduation incentives program under section; or
- Residents of a specific geographic area in which the school is located when the majority of students served by the school are members of underserved populations.

Mississippi

Charter Law

The authorizer shall grant an initial charter to each qualified applicant for a term of five operating years. The term of the charter shall commence on the charter school's first day of operation.

An approved charter school may delay its opening for one school year in order to plan and prepare for the school's opening.

A charter may be renewed for successive five-year terms of duration.

Lottery (Miss. Code § 37-28-23)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who wish to attend the school based on initial application, the charter school must select students through a lottery.

Enrollment (Miss. Code § 37-28-23)

Required

A charter school shall give an enrollment preference to underserved children as defined to ensure the charter school meets its required underserved student composition.

- The underserved student composition of a charter school's enrollment collectively must be least 80 percent.

Any noncharter public school or part of a noncharter public school converting to a charter school shall adopt and maintain a policy giving an enrollment preference to students who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

A charter school must give an enrollment preference to students enrolled in the charter school during the preceding school year and to siblings of students already enrolled in the charter school. An enrollment preference for returning students excludes those students from entering into a lottery.

A charter school must be open to:

- Any student residing in the geographical boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located; and
- Any student who resides in the geographical boundaries of a school district that was rated "C," "D" or "F" at the time the charter school was approved by the authorizer board, or who resides in the geographical boundaries of a school district rated "C," or "D" or "F" at the time the student enrolls.

A charter school must enroll all students who wish to attend the school unless the number of students exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building.

Allowed

A charter school may give an enrollment preference to children of the charter school's applicant, governing board members and full-time employees, so long as those children constitute no more than 10 percent of the charter school's total student population.

A charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level, including Pre-K students, and may be organized around a special emphasis, theme or concept as stated in the school's application.

Missouri

Charter Law

The term of the charter shall be five years and may be renewed.

Lottery (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.410)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all pupils who submit a timely application, the charter school shall have an admissions process that assures all applicants of an equal chance of gaining admission and does not discriminate based on parents' ability to pay fees or tuition except as provided.

Enrollment (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.410)

Required

A charter school shall enroll:

- All pupils resident in the district in which it operates;
- Nonresident pupils eligible to attend a district's school under an urban voluntary transfer program;
- Nonresident pupils who transfer from an unaccredited district;
- In the case of a charter school whose mission includes student drop-out prevention or recovery, any nonresident pupil from the same or an adjacent county who resides in a residential care facility, a transitional living group home, or an independent living program whose last school of enrollment is in the school district where the charter school is established, who submits a timely application; and
- In the case of a workplace charter school, any student eligible to attend whose parent is employed in the business district, who submits a timely application.

Allowed

A charter school may establish a geographical area around the school whose residents will receive a preference for enrolling in the school, provided that such preferences do not result in the establishment of racially or socioeconomically isolated schools and provided such preferences conform to policies and guidelines established by the state board of education.

A charter school may also give a preference for admission of children whose siblings attend the school or whose parents are employed at the school or in the case of a workplace charter school, a child whose parent is employed in the business district or at the business site of such school.

Charter schools may also give a preference for admission to high-risk students, when the school targets these students through its proposed mission, curriculum, teaching methods, and services.

A charter school may also give a preference for admission to students who will be eligible for the free and reduced-price lunch program in the upcoming school year.

Montana

Community Choice School Charter Law; Public Charter School Charter Law

Montana has two types of charter schools: Public charter schools and community choice schools.

An initial charter contract must be granted for a term of five operating years, commencing on the community choice school's first day of operation.

- An approved choice school may delay its opening for one school year to plan and prepare for the school's opening.

A charter contract may be renewed for successive five-year terms.

Lottery (Mont. Code § 20-11-103; Mont. Code § 20-6-808)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who wish to attend the school, the choice school shall select students through a lottery.

Enrollment (Mont. Code § 20-11-103; Mont. Code § 20-6-808)

Required

A traditional public school converting to a choice school shall adopt and maintain a policy giving enrollment preference to students who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

A choice school shall give enrollment preference to students who were enrolled in the choice school the previous school year and to siblings of students already enrolled in the choice school. An enrollment preference for returning students and siblings excludes those students from entering a lottery.

If the choice school is the only public school in a town, the choice school must give preference to enrolling pupils residing in the town or within five miles of the school if the next closest public school is more than 10 miles away from the student's residence.

A community choice school must be open to any student residing in the state.

A choice school shall enroll all students who wish to attend the school unless the number of students exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building.

Allowed

A choice school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level.

A choice school may give enrollment preference to children of a choice school's employees and governing board, limited to no more than 10 percent of the school's total student population.

Nevada

Charter Law

Except as otherwise provided, a charter contract must be for a term of six years. The term of the charter contract begins on the first day of operation of the charter school after the charter contract has been executed.

A charter contract may be renewed for a term of not less than three years or more than 10 years.

Lottery (*Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388A.453; Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388A.459*)

Except as otherwise provided, if more pupils who are eligible for enrollment apply for enrollment in the charter school than the number of spaces which are available, the charter school shall determine which applicants to enroll on the basis of a lottery system.

In a county in which more than five charter schools are located and the total number of pupils enrolled in the charter schools exceeds 25 percent of the combined enrollment of all public schools, including, without limitation, charter schools, the Department shall, in consultation with all sponsors of charter schools in the county, determine whether holding a weighted lottery for admission to charter schools would improve diversity in charter schools that do not have a preference for at-risk pupils.

The regulations must establish a lottery for admission to each charter school in the county. If a charter school does not have a preference for at-risk pupils, the lottery must, to the extent authorized by federal law, be a weighted lottery.

Enrollment (*Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388A.453; Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388A.456*)

Required

Except as otherwise provided a charter school shall enroll pupils who are eligible for enrollment in the order in which the applications are received.

If the board of trustees of the school district in which the charter school is located has established zones of attendance, the charter school shall, if practicable, ensure that the racial composition of pupils enrolled in the charter school does not differ by more than 10 percent from the racial composition of pupils who attend public schools in the zone in which the charter school is located.

If a charter school is sponsored by the board of trustees of a school district located in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, except for a program of distance education provided by the charter school, the charter school shall enroll pupils who are eligible for enrollment who reside in the school district in which the charter school is located before enrolling pupils who reside outside the school district.

Allowed

Before a charter school enrolls pupils who are eligible for enrollment, a charter school may enroll a child who:

- Is a sibling of a pupil who is currently enrolled in the charter school.
- Was enrolled in a prekindergarten program at the charter school or any other early childhood educational program affiliated with the charter school.
- Is a child of a person:
 - Who is employed by the charter school;
 - Who is a member of the committee to form the charter school;
 - Who is a member of the governing body of the charter school; or
 - Who resides on or is employed on the Federal military installation, if the charter school is located on a Federal military installation.
- Is enrolled at a charter school with which the charter school has an articulation agreement, approved by the sponsor, providing for priority enrollment.
- Is in a particular category of at-risk pupils and the child meets the eligibility for enrollment prescribed by the charter school.

Nevada (continued)

Charter Law

Enrollment

Allowed (continued)

- At the time his or her application is submitted, is enrolled in a public school of a school district with an enrollment that is more than 25 percent over the public school's intended capacity.
 - If a charter school enrolls pupils who are enrolled in such a public school before enrolling other pupils who are eligible for enrollment, the charter school must enroll such pupils who reside within two miles of the charter school before enrolling other such pupils.
- At the time his or her application is submitted, is enrolled in a public school that received an annual rating established as one of the two lowest ratings possible indicating underperformance of a public school.
 - If a charter school enrolls pupils who are enrolled in such a public school before enrolling other pupils who are eligible for enrollment, the charter school must enroll such pupils who reside within two miles of the charter school before enrolling other such pupils.
- Resides within the school district and within two miles of the charter school if the charter school is located in an area that the sponsor of the charter school determines includes a high percentage of children who are at risk.
 - If space is available after the charter school enrolls pupils pursuant to this paragraph, the charter school may enroll children who reside outside the school district but within two miles of the charter school if the charter school is located within an area that the sponsor determines includes a high percentage of children who are at risk.

New Hampshire

Charter Law

Contracts shall be for a five-year term.

Lottery (N.H. Rev. Stat. § 194-B:2)

If the number of otherwise eligible applicants to a particular chartered public school exceeds that school's maximum published enrollment, that school shall use lottery selection as a basis for admission.

Enrollment (N.H. Rev. Stat. § 194-B:2; N.H. Rev. Stat. § 194-B:9)

Required

A pupil who meets the admission requirements of a chartered public school, and who is a resident of the district where the school is located, shall be given absolute admission preference over a nonresident pupil.

Once admitted and unless expelled, chartered public school pupils need not reapply for admission for subsequent years.

All chartered public schools shall accept qualified pupils from any school district.

Allowed

Chartered public schools may set maximum enrollment as they deem appropriate.

Chartered public schools may limit enrollment to specific grade or age levels, pupil needs, or areas of academic focus including, but not limited to, at-risk pupils, vocational education pupils, mathematics, science, the arts, history, or languages.

Chartered public schools may select pupils on the basis of aptitude, academic achievement, or need, provided that such selection is directly related to the academic goals of the school.

New Jersey

Charter Law

A charter shall be granted for a four-year period and may be renewed for a five-year period.

Lottery (N.J. Stat. § 18A:36A-8)

If there are more applications to enroll in the charter school than there are spaces available, the charter school shall select students to attend using a random selection process.

Enrollment (N.J. Stat. § 18A:36A-7; N.J. Stat. § 18A:36A-8)

Required

Preference for enrollment in a charter school shall be given to students who reside in the school district in which the charter school is located.

A charter school shall allow any student who was enrolled in the school in the immediately preceding school year to enroll in the charter school in the appropriate grade unless the appropriate grade is not offered at the charter school.

The admission policy of the charter school shall, to the maximum extent practicable, seek the enrollment of a cross section of the community's school age population including racial and academic factors.

Allowed

A charter school may limit admission to a particular grade level or to areas of concentration of the school, such as mathematics, science, or the arts.

A charter school may give enrollment priority to a sibling of a student enrolled in the charter school.

New Mexico

Charter Law: Section 22; Charter Law: Title 6

A charter school may be approved for an initial term of six years, provided that the first year shall be used exclusively for planning and not for completing the application.

A charter may be renewed for successive periods of five years each.

- Approvals of less than five years may be agreed to between the charter school and the chartering authority.

Lottery (N.M. Stat. § 22-8B-4.1)

A **start-up school** and a **conversion school** may either enroll students on a first-come, first-served basis or through a lottery selection process if the total number of applicants exceeds the number of spaces available at the start-up school.

Enrollment (N.M. Stat. § 22-8B-4.1)

Required

A **conversion school** shall give enrollment preference to students who are enrolled in the public school at the time it is converted into a charter school and to siblings of students admitted to or attending the charter school.

In subsequent years of its operation, a **charter school** shall give enrollment preference to:

- Students who have been admitted to the charter school through an appropriate admission process and remain in attendance through subsequent grades;
- Children of employees employed by the charter school; and
- Siblings of students already admitted to or attending the same charter school.

Allowed

None

New York

Charter Law

Upon the approval of a charter by the board of regents, the board of regents shall incorporate the charter school as an education corporation for a term not to exceed five years.

Upon approval of an application to renew a charter, the board of regents shall extend the certificate of incorporation for a term not to exceed five years.

Lottery (N.Y. Educ. Law § 2854)

If the number of applications exceeds the capacity, students shall be accepted from among applicants by a random selection process.

Enrollment (N.Y. Educ. Law § 2854)

Required

An enrollment preference shall be provided to pupils returning to the charter school in the second or any subsequent year of operation and pupils residing in the school district in which the charter school is located, and siblings of pupils already enrolled in the charter school.

Any child who is qualified under the laws of this state for admission to a public school is qualified for admission to a charter school.

The school shall enroll each eligible student who submits a timely application by the first day of April each year.

Allowed

Preference may also be provided to children of employees of the charter school or charter management organization, provided that such children of employees may constitute no more than 15 percent of the charter school's total enrollment.

North Carolina

Charter Law

The state board of education may grant the initial charter for a period not to exceed 10 years.

The state board of education shall renew a charter upon the request of the chartering entity for subsequent periods of 10 years.

Lottery (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-218.45)

During each period of enrollment, the charter school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In this case, students shall be accepted by lot.

If a procedure for a weighted lottery reflecting the mission of the school has been approved by the review board as part of the charter, and a lottery is needed, the lottery shall be conducted according to the procedure in the charter.

Enrollment (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-218.45)

Required

Admission to a charter school shall not be determined according to the school attendance area in which a student resides, except that any local school administrative unit in which a public school converts to a charter school shall give admission preference to students who reside within the former attendance area of that school.

Once enrolled, students are not required to reapply in subsequent enrollment periods.

A student who is not a domiciliary of the state shall be permitted to register to enroll in a charter school or participate in a lottery for admission to a charter school within the state by remote means, including electronic means, prior to commencement of the student's residency in the state if a parent or legal guardian is on active military duty and is transferred or pending transfer pursuant to an official military order to a military installation or reservation in the state.

Within one year after the charter school begins operation, the charter school shall make efforts for the population of the school to reasonably reflect the racial and ethnic composition of the general population residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located or the racial and ethnic composition of the special population that the school seeks to serve residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located.

Any child who is qualified under the laws of this state for admission to a public school is qualified for admission to a charter school.

Allowed

The charter school may give enrollment priority to any of the following:

- Siblings of currently enrolled students who were admitted to the charter school in a previous year. For the purposes of this section, the term “siblings” includes any of the following who reside in the same household: half siblings, step-siblings, and children residing in a family foster home.
- Siblings who apply to the charter school for admission beginning in the same school year, such as when a sibling was not initially admitted due to grade level capacity.
- Siblings of students who have completed the highest grade level offered by that school and who were enrolled in at least four grade levels offered by the charter school or, if less than four grades are offered, in the maximum number of grades offered by the charter school.

North Carolina (continued)

Charter Law

Enrollment

Allowed (continued)

- A student who was enrolled in a preschool program operated by the charter school in the prior year.
- Limited to no more than 15 percent of the school's total enrollment, unless granted a waiver by the state board of education, the following:
 - Children or grandchildren of persons employed full time by the charter school or working full time in the daily operation of the charter school, including children of persons employed by an education management organization or charter management organization for the charter school; and
 - Children or grandchildren of the charter school's board of directors.
- A student who was enrolled in the charter school within the two previous school years but left the school to participate in an academic study abroad program or a competitive admission residential program or because of the vocational opportunities of the student's parent.
- A student who was enrolled in another charter school in the state in the previous school year that does not offer the student's next grade level.
- A student who was enrolled in another charter school in the state in the previous school year that does not offer the student's next grade level and both of the charter schools have an enrollment articulation agreement to accept students or are governed by the same board of directors.
- A student who was enrolled in another charter school in the state in the previous school year.

North Dakota

Charter Law

An initial charter performance agreement term is five years. The term commences on the public charter school's first day of operation. The superintendent of public instruction may grant renewal of a charter performance agreement for successive terms of five years.

Lottery (Senate Bill No. 2241, 2025, p. 3)

A public charter school shall determine admission by a lottery if initial capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who timely submit an application. The selection process must take place in a public setting. An applicant must have a fair opportunity to be selected in the lottery. The lottery must be randomized and conducted competently, transparently, and impartially.

Enrollment (Senate Bill No. 2241, 2025 pp. 2, 3)

Required

A prospective student is eligible to enroll in a public charter school if the prospective student resides in the state.

A public charter school shall give enrollment preference to students and the siblings of students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year.

A public charter school may not base admissions on ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, or academic or athletic ability.

Allowed

A public charter school may give enrollment preference to children of a public charter school's employees, if the students constitute no more than 10 percent of the total student population.

A public charter school may limit enrollment to students to a given age group, grade level, or pursuant to a special emphasis stated in the school's application for a charter performance agreement.

Ohio

Charter Law

Called community schools

No contract shall exceed five years unless such contract has been renewed.

Lottery (Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.06)

If the number of applicants exceeds the capacity restrictions, students shall be admitted by lot from all those submitting applications.

Enrollment (Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.06)

Required

Preference shall be given to students attending the school the previous year and to students who reside in the district in which the school is located.

That, except as otherwise provided in this section, admission to the school shall be open to any individual age 5 to 22 entitled to attend school.

Allowed

Preference may be given to siblings of students attending the school the previous year.

Preference also may be given to students who are the children of full-time staff members employed by the school, provided the total number of students receiving this preference is less than 5 percent of the school's total enrollment.

Oklahoma

Charter Law

An approved contract for a charter school shall be effective for five years from the first day of operation.

A charter contract may be renewed for successive five-year terms of duration.

Lottery (Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 3-140)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all eligible students, the charter school shall select students through a lottery selection process.

Enrollment (Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 3-140)

Required

Except for a charter school sponsored by the state board of education, a charter school shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located.

A charter school shall enroll those students whose legal residence is within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located and who submit a timely application, or those students who transfer to the district in which the charter school is located, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building.

Allowed

A charter school may designate a specific geographic area within the school district in which the charter school is located as an academic enterprise zone and may limit admissions to students who reside within that area. An academic enterprise zone shall be a geographic area in which 60 percent or more of the children who reside in the area qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program.

A charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level.

Oregon

Charter Law

The initial charter shall be in effect for a period of not more than five years and shall be renewed upon the authorization of the sponsor.

The first renewal of a charter shall be for the same time period as the initial charter.

Subsequent renewals of a charter shall be for a minimum of five years but may not exceed 10 years.

Lottery (ORS § 338.125)

Except as provided, if the number of applications from students exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building, the public charter school shall select students through an equitable lottery selection process.

A public charter school may implement a weighted lottery that favors historically underserved students as provided.

- As used in this paragraph, “historically underserved students” are students who are at risk because of any combination of their race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, income level, proficiency in the English language, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

Enrollment (ORS § 338.125)

Required

All students who reside in the school district in which the public charter school is located are eligible for enrollment in the public charter school if space is available.

Allowed

A public charter school may give priority for admission to students who reside within the attendance boundaries that were in effect at the time a school district closed a nonchartered public school if:

- The public charter school began to operate not more than two years after the nonchartered public school was closed;
- The school district that closed the nonchartered public school is the sponsor of the public charter school;
- The public charter school is physically located within the attendance boundaries of the closed nonchartered public school; and
- The school district board, through board action, approved the public charter school giving priority as described in this paragraph.

After a public charter school has been in operation for one or more years, the public charter school may give priority for admission to students who:

- Were enrolled in the prior year in the public charter school;
- Were enrolled in a public preschool or prekindergarten program operated by the public charter school;
- Have siblings who are presently enrolled in the school and who were enrolled in the school in the prior year;
- Are at risk because the student has an economic or academic disadvantage that requires special services or assistance, including students who:
 - Are from economically disadvantaged families;
 - Are identified as having special educational needs;
 - Are limited in proficiency in the English language;
 - Are at risk of dropping out of high school; or
 - Do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.

Pennsylvania

Charter Law

The charter shall be for a period of no less than three nor more than five years and may be renewed for five-year periods upon reauthorization by the local board of school directors of a school district or the appeal board.

Lottery (24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1723-A)

If more students apply to the charter school than the number of attendance slots available in the school, then students must be selected on a random basis from a pool of qualified applicants meeting the established eligibility criteria and submitting an application by the deadline established by the charter school.

Enrollment (24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1723-A)

Required

First preference shall be given to students who reside in the district or districts.

Allowed

The charter school may give preference in enrollment to a child of a parent who has actively participated in the development of the charter school and to siblings of students presently enrolled in the charter school.

Puerto Rico

Charter Law

(in Spanish, 3 L.P.R.A. § 9813)

Called “escuela alianza” or partnership school

Every charter shall be granted for an initial five-year term and may be renewed for consecutive terms of up to five years. The secretary shall specify the term of each renewal, based on the performance, demonstrated capacities, and particular circumstances of the partnership school. The secretary may grant renewal with specific conditions for necessary improvements to a partnership school.

Lottery (3 L.P.R.A. § 9813)

When there is a lack of capacity to enroll all of the students interested in attending a partnership school, the school may select students through a lottery conducted in accordance with the rules established by the authorizer.

Enrollment (3 L.P.R.A. § 9813)

Required

Admission to partnership schools shall be open to any student who resides in Puerto Rico.

Students from nearby communities and communities within the regional limits shall have priority for admission. The authorizer may impose limitations on admissions if it is determined that such limits are necessary to avoid overcrowding or to provide better service to low-income or at-risk students.

Admission may not be denied to a student who meets the requirements for admission included in the charter solely because the academic year has already started, when the school still has available capacity.

The schools authorized by a charter shall not establish minimum admission requirements, such as grade point average.

A partnership school shall give admission preference in the student selection to:

- Students who were previously enrolled in the school during the preceding year, unless they have been expelled for a justifiable reason, other than academic;
- Siblings of currently enrolled students; and
- Students who reside within the school's regional limits.

If a student is eligible for admission preference, such student shall be excluded from the lottery selection.

When an existing public school is converted into a partnership school, it shall be clearly established whether the grade levels offered in accordance with the charter shall be modified. The school shall be required to serve all of the students who were enrolled in the school prior to the granting of the charter.

Allowed

Partnership schools may require certain qualifications as are reasonably necessary to carry out the school's mission, insofar as they comply with applicable state and Federal laws. It is hereby provided that such qualifications may not be established so as to discriminate against students with disabilities.

Rhode Island

Charter Law

There are three types of charter schools in Rhode Island: (a) district charters, (b) independent charters, and (c) mayoral academies; all are considered “charter public schools.”

Charter public school approval for establishment or continuation shall be for up to a five-year period.

Lottery *(R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-77.2-1; R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-77.3-1; R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-77-4.1)*

If the total number of students who are eligible to attend and apply to any charter is greater than the number of spaces available, the charter shall conduct a lottery to determine which students shall be admitted.

Enrollment *(R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-77-4.1)*

Required

A *mayoral academy* must enroll students from more than one city or town, including both urban and non-urban communities.

Allowed

None

South Carolina

Charter Law

A charter must be approved or renewed for a period of 10 school years.

Lottery (S.C. Code § 59-40-50)

If the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, students must be accepted by lot.

In the case of a charter school designated as an alternative education campus, that is serving educationally disadvantaged students, if the number of applicants exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, students may be accepted by weighted lot as allowed by ESSA with mission-aligned preference and the process clearly described in their charter and charter contract approved by their sponsor.

Enrollment (S.C. Code § 59-40-50; S.C. Code § 59-40-100; S.C. Code § 59-40-145)

Required

It is required that the racial composition of the charter school enrollment reflect that of the local school district in which the charter school is located or that of the targeted student population of the local school district that the charter school proposes to serve, to be defined for the purposes of this chapter as differing by no more than 20 percent from that population.

A public charter school shall give enrollment preference to students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year.

A **converted charter school** shall offer at least the same grades, or nongraded education appropriate for the same ages and education levels of pupils, as offered by the school immediately before conversion, and also may provide additional grades and further educational offerings.

All students enrolled in the school at the time of conversion must be given priority enrollment. Thereafter, students who reside within the former attendance area of that public school must be given enrollment priority.

Allowed

A charter school may give enrollment priority to a sibling of a pupil currently enrolled and attending, or who, within the last six years, attended the school for at least one complete academic year.

A charter school also may give priority to children of a charter school employee and children of the charter committee, if priority enrollment for children of employees and of the charter committee does not constitute more than 20 percent of the enrollment of the charter school.

Tennessee

Charter Law

A charter agreement expires 10 academic years after the first day of instruction.

A public charter school may delay, for a period not to exceed one academic year, the school's initial opening.

A renewal of a charter agreement shall be for a period of 10 academic years.

Lottery (Tenn. Code § 49-13-113)

If the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, the charter school shall select students through a lottery.

A charter school shall provide to the department of education certification by an independent accounting firm or by a law firm that each lottery conducted for enrollment purposes complied with the requirements of this section.

Enrollment (Tenn. Code § 49-13-106; Tenn. Code § 49-13-113)

Required

An enrollment preference shall be provided to students that attended the charter school during the previous school year. The enrollment preference for returning students provided shall exclude those students from entering into a lottery.

A public charter school's total enrollment of out-of-district students shall not exceed 25 percent of the public charter school's total enrollment.

In the case of a conversion charter enrollment preference shall be given to students who reside within the former school zone of the converted public school. The enrollment preference for students who reside within the former attendance area excludes such students from entering into a lottery.

Allowed

A public charter school may give an enrollment preference to students who are economically disadvantaged.

A public charter school may give an enrollment preference to children of the public charter school's employees or to the children of a member of the public charter school's governing body, not to exceed 10 percent of the public charter school's total enrollment or 25 students, whichever is less.

If an enrollment lottery is conducted, a public charter school shall give enrollment preferences in the following order:

- Students enrolled in a Pre-K program operated by the charter school sponsor;
- Students who are economically disadvantaged as provided in subdivision, if the enrollment preference is used by the public charter school;
- Students enrolled in a charter school that has an articulation agreement with the enrolling public charter school, provided that the articulation agreement has been approved by the authorizer;
- Siblings of students already enrolled in the public charter school;
- Students residing within the geographic boundaries of the LEA in which the public charter school is located who were enrolled in another public school during the previous school year; and
- Students residing outside the geographic boundaries of the LEA in which the public charter school is located.

Texas

Charter Law

There are three types of charter schools in Texas: (a) home-rule district charters, (b) campus or campus program charters, and (c) open-enrollment charters.

If a **campus charter** is granted, the charter expires 10 years from the date the charter is granted unless the specified goals are substantially met, as determined by the board of trustees of the school district that granted the charter.

The initial term of an **open enrollment charter** granted is five years.

Lottery (Tex. Educ. Code § 12.117)

For admission to an **open-enrollment charter school**, the governing body of the school shall on receipt of more acceptable applications for admission under this section than available positions in the school fill the available positions by lottery or fill the available positions in the order in which applications received before the application deadline.

Enrollment (Tex. Educ. Code § 12.117; Tex. Educ. Code § 12.065)

Required

Eligibility criteria for admission of students to the **campus charter or program for which a charter is granted under this subchapter** must give priority on the basis of geographic and residency considerations.

In admitting students to an **adult education program operated under a charter** granted under this subchapter, an eligible entity shall give priority to a person who has not earned a high school equivalency certificate.

Allowed

Secondary consideration for admission to a **campus charter** may be given to a student's age, grade level, or academic credentials in general or in a specific area, as necessary for the type of program offered.

An **open enrollment charter** may admit children of employees of the municipality to the school before conducting a lottery to fill remaining available positions, provided that the number of children admitted under this subdivision constitutes only a small percentage, as may be further specified by Federal regulation, of the school's total enrollment.

An **open-enrollment charter school** may admit a child of an employee of the school as provided by this section regardless of whether the child resides in the geographic area served by the school.

Utah

Charter Law

A charter contract is granted for an initial three-year review period that may be extended for one year, up to two times during the initial review period.

Charters granted ongoing approval at the end of the initial review period are reviewed by their authorizers once every five years.

Lottery (Utah Code § 53G-6-502)

If the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or the charter school, the charter school shall select students on a random basis.

A charter school may weight the charter school's lottery to give a slightly better chance of admission to educationally disadvantaged students, including:

- Low-income students;
- Students with disabilities;
- English language learners;
- Migrant students;
- Neglected or delinquent students; and
- Homeless students.

Enrollment (Utah Code § 53G-6-502)

Required

A charter school shall enroll a foster child residing in the same residence as an individual who is enrolled in the charter school.

If a district school converts to charter status, the charter school shall give an enrollment preference to students who would have otherwise attended it as a district school.

A charter school that is approved by the state board after May 13, 2014, and is located in a high-growth area shall give an enrollment preference to a student who resides within a two-mile radius of the charter school.

All resident students of the state qualify for admission to a charter school.

Allowed

A charter school whose mission is to enhance learning opportunities for refugees or children of refugee families may give an enrollment preference to refugees or children of refugee families.

A charter school whose mission is to enhance learning opportunities for English language learners may give an enrollment preference to English language learners.

A charter school may give an enrollment preference to:

- A child or grandchild of an individual who has actively participated in the development of the charter school;
- A child or grandchild of a member of the charter school governing board;
- A sibling of an individual who was previously or is presently enrolled in the charter school;
- A child of an employee of the charter school;
- A student articulating between charter schools offering similar programs that are governed by the same charter school governing board;
- A student articulating from one charter school to another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter schools that is approved by the state charter school board;

Utah (continued)

Charter Law

Enrollment

Allowed (continued)

- An individual seeking enrollment in a charter school if:
 - The individual's sibling is a student enrolled in a charter school; and
 - The charter school where the individual is seeking enrollment has an articulation agreement with the charter school where the sibling is enrolled that the state charter school board approves;
- A student who resides within up to a two-mile radius of the charter school and whose school of residence is at capacity; and
- A child of a military service member.

Virginia

Charter Law

A charter may be approved or renewed for a period not to exceed five school years.

Lottery (Va. Code. § 22.1-212.6)

Enrollment in a public charter school shall be open to any child who is deemed to reside within the relevant school division or, in the case of a regional public charter school, within any of the relevant school divisions, through a lottery process on a space-available basis.

Enrollment (Va. Code. § 22.1-212.6)

Required

In the case of the **conversion** of an existing public school, students who attend the school and the siblings of such students shall be given the opportunity to enroll in advance of the lottery process.

Allowed

None

Washington

Charter Law

An initial charter contract is granted for five operating years.

A charter contract may be renewed for successive five-year terms, although the authorizer may vary the term based on the performance, demonstrated capacities, and particular circumstances of a charter school and may grant renewal with specific conditions for necessary improvements to a charter school.

Lottery (Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.710.050)

If capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who apply to a charter school, preference must be granted to siblings, with any remaining enrollments allocated through a lottery.

Enrollment (Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.710.505)

Required

The charter school must grant an enrollment preference to siblings of enrolled students.

A charter school is open to any student regardless of his or her location of residence.

Allowed

A charter school may offer, pursuant to an admissions policy approved by the authorizer, a weighted enrollment preference for at-risk students, students with disabilities, or students who pose severe disciplinary problems if the charter school's mission is to offer a specialized learning environment and services for particular groups of students.

A charter school may offer, pursuant to an admissions policy approved by the authorizer, a weighted enrollment preference for children of full-time employees of the school if the employees' children reside within the state.

West Virginia

Charter Law

A charter contract may be granted for up to five years and may be renewed for another term of five years following approval.

Lottery (W. Va. Code § 18-5G-11)

If the school has excess capacity after enrolling students with enrollment preferences, the school shall enroll all other students who apply. If the remaining applicants exceed the enrollment capacity of the program, class, grade level or building of the public charter school, the public charter school shall select students for enrollment from among all remaining applicants by a random selection lottery.

The school's lottery procedures and timelines support equal and open access for all students and take place in an open meeting.

Enrollment (W. Va. Code § 18-5G-11)

Required

A **start-up public charter school** shall enroll all students who apply and to whom an enrollment preference has been established.

A **conversion public charter school** shall guarantee enrollment to all students who were previously enrolled in the noncharter public school and shall adopt and maintain a policy that gives enrollment preference to students who reside within the attendance area as established prior to the conversion of the school.

A **program conversion public charter school** shall enroll all students who apply for enrollment in the program who, at the time of authorization, are enrolled in the noncharter public school at which the program is operated.

Public charter schools are open for enrollment to all students of appropriate grade level age.

A public charter school shall designate its primary recruitment area in its charter application and charter contract.

Allowed

A public charter school may establish any one or more of the following enrollment preferences for:

- Children who reside within the school's primary recruitment area
- Students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year and siblings of students already enrolled in the public charter school.
- Children with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter public school, or students involved with the juvenile justice system.
- Children of governing board members and full-time employees of the school as long as the number of students enrolled under this preference constitute no more than 5 percent of the school's total student enrollment.

Wisconsin

Charter Law

A charter contract may be granted for up to five school years and may be renewed for successive five-year terms.

Lottery (Wis. Stat. § 118.40)

A charter contract shall require that if the capacity of the charter school is insufficient to accept all pupils who apply, the charter school shall accept pupils at random.

Enrollment (Wis. Stat. § 118.40)

Required

A charter school shall give preference in enrollment to pupils who were enrolled in the charter school in the previous school year.

A charter school, other than the charter school established as a pilot high school to support pupils in recovery from substance abuse, shall give preference to siblings of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school.

Allowed

A charter school may give preference in enrollment to the children of the charter school's founders, governing board members, and full-time employees, but the total number of such children given preference may constitute no more than 10 percent of the charter school's total enrollment.

A charter school established under a contract with a union high school district may give preference in enrollment to pupils who were enrolled during the previous school year in a charter school operating under a cooperative agreement with the charter school established under a contract with a union high school district.

A school board may contract for the establishment of a charter school that enrolls only one sex or that provides one or more courses that enroll only one sex if the school board makes available to the opposite sex, under the same policies and criteria of admission, schools or courses that are comparable to each such school or course.

Wyoming

Charter Law

A charter may be granted for up to five years and may be renewed for successive five-year periods.

Lottery (Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-307)

If the number of applicants for enrollment exceeds the available seats, the charter school shall, subject to W.S. 21-3-304(c), hold a blind lottery to determine enrollment.

Enrollment (Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-304; Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-307)

Required

Students enrolled in the previous year shall be guaranteed a seat, and applicants with a sibling enrolled in the charter school shall receive a preference.

For converted charter schools, students who attended the converted charter school the previous school year shall be given an enrollment preference.

If the number of students enrolled in the converted charter school does not exceed the capacity of the school, secondary preference shall be given to students who reside within the district boundary in which the charter school is located

Allowed

A charter school sponsored jointly or separately by the Eastern Shoshone, or the Northern Arapaho Indian tribes may give preference to a student who is a member or eligible for membership in an Indian tribe.