



State Charter Laws *Authorizers and Appeals*

Updated August 2025

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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. Monitoring addresses charter school authorization, including who can authorize schools and whether there is a process for applicants who want to open a charter school to appeal a denied charter.

Federal CSP statute requires charter schools receiving CSP funds to (a) be authorized, (b) operate in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives agreed to by the authorizer, and (c) have a written performance contract with the authorizer that includes a description of how student performance will be measured (Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 4310, 2). Federal statute further requires that state entities provide technical assistance to authorized public chartering agencies and work with them to improve authorizing quality, including developing capacity for, and conducting, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools (Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 4303, g). An authorizer is a state educational agency, local educational agency, or other public entity that has the authority pursuant to state law and approved by the secretary to authorize or approve a charter school (Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 4310, 2).

This document includes an at-a-glance overview of common authorizers and whether states and territories allow charter schools to appeal denials of applications for new charter schools.¹ Each state or territory with a charter law has a profile page that summarizes (a) entities that are allowed to authorize and (b) the appeals process, as applicable. The profile also cites the laws that contain the information presented for verification.²

¹ Seven states use the term sponsor to refer to authorizers: Arizona, Florida, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, and South Carolina.

² 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.

Understanding the Summary Tables

Authorizer types are categorized between governmental and nongovernmental. **Governmental** authorizing entities include (a) a local or district school board, (b) a state charter commission or charter board, (c) a state board of education or state department of education, and (d) other, including a city or county government and a public education commission.

States that have any of the above-mentioned authorizer types are identified with a “Yes.” An asterisk distinguishes states’ charter law provisions when those authorizers are involved, such as to approve local decisions, in the case of disputes, for initial approval or to review and approve for local-level implementation.

Nongovernmental entities include (a) institutions of higher education (IHEs) consisting of public and private institutions and (b) other, including nonprofit and charitable organizations, an educational service center, a collective bargaining unit, a Federally recognized Indian tribe, and an independent charter school board.

States that have any of the above-mentioned authorizer types are identified with a “Yes.” An asterisk distinguishes states that have IHEs as an authorizer including public, private, or specific institutions, or other nongovernmental entities as authorizers. The states’ charter law indicates when those authorizers are involved, such as for initial approval.

The last table identifies whether each state and territory with charter laws has an appeals process for applicants, noted with a “Yes” or a “No.”

Summary of State Charter Laws for Authorizers and Appeals

Governmental Authorizers

States and territories with charter laws	Local or district school board	State charter commission or charter board	State board of education or State department of education	Other (e.g., city, county, education commission, etc.)
Alabama	Yes	Yes	No	No
Alaska	Yes	No	Yes*	No
Arizona	No	Yes	Yes	No
Arkansas	No	No	Yes	No
California	Yes	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes*	No
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	No

Nongovernmental Authorizers

States and territories with charter laws	Institutions of higher education (IHE)	Other (e.g., nonprofit, educational service center, Indian tribe, etc.)
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	No
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	No	No

Appeals

States and territories with charter laws	Is there an appeals process for applicants?
Alabama	Yes
Alaska	Yes
Arizona	No
Arkansas	Yes
California	Yes
Colorado	Yes
Connecticut	No

Summary of State Charter Laws for Authorizers and Appeals

Governmental Authorizers

States and territories with charter laws	Local or district school board	State charter commission or charter board	State board of education or state department of education	Other (e.g., city, county, education commission, etc.)
Alabama	Yes	Yes	No	No
Alaska	Yes	No	Yes*	No
Arizona	No	Yes	Yes	No
Arkansas	No	No	Yes	No
California	Yes	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes*	No
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	No
Delaware	Yes	No	Yes	No
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	No	No
Florida	Yes	Yes*	No	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes*	No
Guam	No	Yes	No	No
Hawai'i	No	Yes	No	Yes
Idaho	Yes	Yes	No	No
Illinois	Yes*	No	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No	Yes*	No
Kansas	Yes	No	Yes*	No
Kentucky	Yes	No	No	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes	No
Maine	Yes	Yes	No	No
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes*	No	Yes	No
Michigan	Yes	No	No	No
Minnesota	Yes	No	No	No
Mississippi	No	Yes	No	No

Nongovernmental Authorizers

States and territories with charter laws	Institutions of higher education (IHEs)	Other (e.g., nonprofit, educational service center, Indian tribe, etc.)
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	No
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	No	No
Delaware	No	No
District of Columbia	No	No
Florida	Yes*	No
Georgia	No	No
Guam	No	No
Hawai'i	Yes*	Yes
Idaho	Yes*	No
Illinois	No	No
Indiana	Yes*	No
Iowa	No	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No	No
Louisiana	No	No
Maine	No	No
Maryland	No	No
Massachusetts	No	Yes*
Michigan	Yes*	No
Minnesota	Yes*	Yes
Mississippi	No	No

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Alabama	Yes
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Guam	Yes
Hawai'i	Yes
Idaho	Yes
Illinois	No
Indiana	Yes
Iowa	Yes
Kansas	Yes
Kentucky	Yes
Louisiana	No
Maine	No
Maryland	Yes
Massachusetts	No
Michigan	Yes
Minnesota	No
Mississippi	No

*In certain circumstances

Summary of State Charter Laws for Authorizers and Appeals *(continued)*

Governmental Authorizers

States and territories with charter laws	Local or district school board	State charter commission or charter board	State board of education or state department of education	Other (e.g., city, county, education commission, etc.)
Missouri	Yes	No	No	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Hampshire	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New Mexico	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	No	Yes	No
North Carolina	No	No	Yes	No
North Dakota	No	No	Yes	No
Ohio	Yes	No	Yes	No
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	Yes	No
Puerto Rico	No	No	Yes	No
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes	No
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	No	No
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	No
Utah	Yes	Yes	No	No
Virginia	Yes	No	No	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	No	No
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	No	No

Nongovernmental Authorizers

States and territories with charter laws	Institutions of higher education (IHEs)	Other (e.g., nonprofit, educational service center, Indian tribe, etc.)
Missouri	Yes*	No
Montana	No	No
Nevada	Yes*	No
New Hampshire	No	No
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico	No	No
New York	No	No
North Carolina	No	No
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	Yes*	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No
Puerto Rico	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina	Yes	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	No	No
Utah	Yes*	No
Virginia	No	No
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes*	No
Wyoming	No	No

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Missouri	Yes
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New Hampshire	Yes
New Jersey	Yes
New Mexico	Yes
New York	No
North Carolina	Yes
North Dakota	No
Ohio	No
Oklahoma	No
Oregon	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes
Puerto Rico	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes
South Carolina	Yes
Tennessee	Yes
Texas	No
Utah	No
Virginia	Yes
Washington	No
West Virginia	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes
Wyoming	Yes

*In certain circumstances

Alabama

Charter Law

Authorizers (Ala. Code § 16-6F-5)

Governmental

- A local school board, for chartering of schools within the boundaries of the school system under its jurisdiction, pursuant to state law
- The Alabama Public Charter School Commission

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Ala. Code § 16-6F-5)

- A denied applicant may subsequently reapply to that board the following year or appeal the denial to the commission.

Alaska

Charter Law

Authorizers (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.250)

Governmental

- A local school board
 - Approving or denying an application for a charter school must be in writing, must be issued within 60 days after the application, and must include all relevant findings of fact and conclusions of law.
- If approved, the local school board shall forward the application to the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development for review and approval.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.250; Alaska Stat. § 14.03.253)

- If a local school board denies an application for a charter school, the applicant may appeal the denial to the commissioner.

Arizona

Charter Law

Authorizers (*Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-183*)

Governmental

- The Arizona State Board of Education
- The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Nongovernmental

- The applicant may submit the application to a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents, a community college district, or a group of community college districts.
 - A university, a community college district, or a group of community college districts shall not grant a charter to a school district governing board for a new charter school or for the conversion of an existing district public school to a charter school.
- A university, a community college district, or a group of community college districts may approve the application if it meets the requirements of this article and if the proposed sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that the applicant is sufficiently qualified to operate a charter school.

Appeals

- None

Arkansas

Charter Law

Charter schools are public schools that are referred to as either “conversion public charter schools” or “open-enrollment public charter schools.”

Authorizers (*Ark. Code § 6-23-103*)

Governmental

- The Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
- The Arkansas State Board of Education acting under § 6-23-703

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (*Ark. Code § 6-23-702*)

- A charter applicant, public charter school, or affected school district, if any, may submit in writing a request that the state board review the final decision of the division under § 6-23-703.
- The decision of whether to review a final decision of the division is discretionary by the state board and the provisions of this section and § 6-23-703 do not grant any right of appeal to a charter applicant, public charter school, or affected school district.

California

Charter Law

Authorizers (*Cal. Educ. Code § 47605; Cal. Educ. Code § 47605.9*)

Governmental

- The petition may be submitted to the governing board of the school district for review. The governing board of the school district shall either grant or deny the charter within 90 days of receipt of the petition.
- In addition to the authority provided by Section 47605.5, a county board of education may also approve a petition for the operation of a charter school that operates at one or more sites within the geographic boundaries of the county and that provides instructional services that are not generally provided by a county office of education.
- A charter school operating under a charter approved by the California State Board of Education pursuant to Section 47605, as that section read on January 1, 2019, may continue to operate under the authority of that chartering authority only until the date on which the charter is up for renewal.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (*Cal. Educ. Code § 47605; Cal. Educ. Code § 47605.6*)

- If the governing board of a school district denies a petition, the petitioner may elect to submit the petition for the establishment of a charter school to the county board of education.
- If the county board of education denies a petition, the petitioner may appeal that denial to the state board.

Colorado

Charter Law

Authorizers (*Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-30.5-107; Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-30.5-504*)

Governmental

- The local board of education shall receive and review all applications for charter schools.
- If a local board of education approves a charter application, it shall send a copy of the approved charter application to the Colorado Department of Education within 15 days after approving the charter application.
- The state charter school institute shall be authorized to approve or deny an application submitted for the establishment of an institute charter school.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (*Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-30.5-108; Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-30.5-510*)

- A charter applicant or any other person who wishes to appeal a decision of a local board of education concerning the denial of a charter application or the nonrenewal or revocation of a charter or the unilateral imposition of conditions on a charter applicant or a charter school, shall provide the state board and the local board of education with a notice of appeal or of facilitation within 30 days after the local board's decision.
- If the institute denies an institute charter school application, it shall state its reasons for the denial. Within 30 days after the denial, the entity that submitted the institute charter school application may submit to the state board a notice of appeal, stating the grounds for the appeal.

Connecticut

Charter Law

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

Governmental

- An application for the establishment of a local charter school shall be submitted to the local or regional board of education of the school district in which the local charter school is to be located for approval pursuant to this subsection.
- If the application is approved, the board shall forward the application to the Connecticut State Board of Education. The state board of education shall vote on the application not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of such application.
- Except as otherwise provided in subdivision two of this subsection, an application for the establishment of a state charter school shall be (a) submitted to the state board of education for approval in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, and (b) filed with the local or regional board of education in the school district in which the charter school is to be located.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Delaware

Charter Law

Authorizers (Del. Code tit. 14, § 511)

Governmental

- A local school board
- The Delaware Department of Education for approval as an approving authority
 - Whenever a charter school seeks a charter from the department as approving authority, such approval shall require the assent of both the secretary and the state board, as shall any action pursuant to §§ 515 and 516 of this title.
- For a charter school applicant seeking to locate in the city of Wilmington, prior to the approving authority authorizing the school to open, the mayor and the city council of the city of Wilmington may review and provide comment regarding the likely impact of the proposed charter school on students in the city of Wilmington as outlined in this chapter and further defined in regulations.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

District of Columbia

Charter Law

Authorizers (D.C. Code § 38-1800.02; D.C. Code § 38-1802.03)

Governmental

- The board of education
- The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board
- Any one entity designated as an eligible chartering authority by enactment of a bill by the District of Columbia Council after April 26, 1996

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (D.C. Code § 38-1802.03)

- If an eligible chartering authority denies a petition or finds the petition to be incomplete, the eligible chartering authority shall specify in writing the reasons for its decision and indicate, when the eligible chartering authority determines appropriate, how the eligible applicant who filed the petition may revise the petition to satisfy the requirements for approval.
- A decision by an eligible chartering authority to deny a petition to establish a public charter school shall be subject to judicial review by an appropriate court of the District of Columbia or by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education. In the case of review by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, it shall issue procedures for the submission and review of appeals.

Florida

Charter Law

Authorizers (Fla. Stat. § 1002.33)

Governmental

- A district school board may sponsor a charter school in the county over which the district school board has jurisdiction.
- The charter school review commission, as authorized under s. 1002.3301, may solicit and review applications for charter schools overseen by district school boards and, upon the commission approving an application, the district school board that oversees the school district in which the charter school will be located shall serve as the sponsor.

Nongovernmental

- A state university may grant a charter to a lab school created under s. 1002.32 and shall be considered to be the school's sponsor. Such school shall be considered a charter lab school.
- Because needs relating to educational capacity, workforce qualifications, and career education opportunities are constantly changing and extend beyond school district boundaries:
 - A state university may, upon approval by the department of education, solicit applications and sponsor a charter school to meet regional education or workforce demands by serving students from multiple school districts.
 - A Florida College System institution may, upon approval by the department of education, solicit applications and sponsor a charter school in any county within its service area to meet workforce demands and may offer postsecondary programs leading to industry certifications to eligible charter school students. A charter school established under subparagraph (b)4. may not be sponsored by a Florida College System institution until its existing charter with the school district expires as provided under subsection seven.

- Notwithstanding paragraph (6)(b), a state university or Florida College System institution may, at its discretion, deny an application for a charter school.

Appeals (Fla. Stat. § 1002.33)

- An applicant may appeal any denial of that applicant's application or failure to act on an application to the state board of education no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the sponsor's decision or failure to act and shall notify the sponsor of its appeal.

Georgia

Charter Law Code

Authorizers (*Ga. Code § 20-2-2063.3; Ga. Code § 20-2-2064.1*)

Governmental

- A charter petitioner seeking to create (a) a conversion charter school or (b) a start-up charter school must submit a petition to the local board of the local school system in which the proposed charter school will be located.
- The Georgia Board of Education shall approve the charter of a charter petitioner if the petition has been approved by the local board of the local school system in which the proposed charter school will be located and the state board finds, after receiving input from the charter advisory committee, that the petition complies with the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures promulgated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-2063 and the provisions of this title, and is in the public interest.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (*Ga. Code § 20-2-2063.3; Ga. Code § 20-2-2064.1*)

- The state board or the charter advisory committee, if directed by the state board to do so, may mediate between the local board and a charter petitioner whose petition was denied to assist in resolving issues which led to denial of the petition by the local board.
- No application for a state-chartered special school may be made to the state board by a petitioner for a conversion charter school that has been denied by a local board. Upon denial of a petition for a start-up charter school by a local board and upon application to the state board by the petitioner, the state board shall approve the charter of a start-up charter petitioner for a state chartered special school if the state board finds, after receiving input from the charter advisory committee, that such petition meets the requirements set forth in Code Section 20-2-2063 and the provisions of this title, and is in the public interest.

Guam

Charter Law

Called an academy charter school

Authorizers (*17 Guam Code § 12103*)

Governmental

- The Guam Academy Charter Schools Council

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (*17 Guam Code § 12106*)

- If the petition is not approved, the eligible applicant may amend the petition to address objections and any suggested remedial measures and resubmit the petition to the council. The council shall approve or disapprove the resubmitted petition within 20 days after receiving it. If the petition is not approved, the eligible applicant may appeal the decision of the council to the appeals board.

Hawai'i

Charter Law

Authorizers (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302D-4)

Governmental

- The Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission may authorize public charter schools anywhere in the state.
- A county or state agency may apply to the board, pursuant to this section, for chartering authority.

Nongovernmental

- Governing boards of accredited public and private postsecondary institutions, including community colleges, technical colleges, and four-year universities may apply to the board, pursuant to this section, for statewide, regional, or local chartering authority, in accordance with each institution's regular operating jurisdiction.
- Governing boards of nonprofit or charitable organizations, which are exempt from Federal taxes under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, may apply to the board, and may be granted statewide chartering authority. Nonpublic sectarian or religious organizations and any other charitable organization which in their Federal Internal Revenue Service Form 1023, Part IV, describe activities indicating a religious purpose, are not eligible to apply to become an authorizer.

Appeals (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302D-15)

- An appeal shall be filed with the board within 21 calendar days of the receipt of the notification of denial or revocation. Only a party whose charter application has been denied, whose charter contract renewal has been denied, or whose charter contract has been revoked, may initiate an appeal under this section for cause.

Idaho

Charter Law

Authorizers (Idaho Code § 33-5202A)

Governmental

- A local board of trustees of a school district
- The Idaho Public Charter School Commission created pursuant to the provisions of this chapter

Nongovernmental

- An Idaho public college, university, or community college
- A private, nonprofit, Idaho-based nonsectarian college or university that is accredited by the same organization that accredits Idaho public colleges and universities

Appeals (Idaho Code § 33-5207)

- If a local school board of trustees, acting in its capacity as an authorized chartering entity, approves a petition for the conversion of an existing traditional public school within the school district over the objection of 30 or more persons or employees of the district, or if an authorized chartering entity denies a petition for the establishment of a new or replication public charter school for any reason including, but not limited to, failure by the petitioner to follow procedures or for failure to provide required information, then such decisions may be appealed to the state superintendent of public instruction within 30 days of the date of the written decision, at the request of persons opposing the conversion of an existing traditional public school, or at the request of the petitioner whose request for a new charter was denied.
- There shall be no appeal of a decision by a local school board of trustees which denies the conversion of an existing traditional public school within that district to a public charter school, or by an authorized chartering entity which approves a petition for a public charter school.

Illinois

Charter Law

Authorizers (105 ILCS 5/27A-6.5)

Governmental

- The Illinois State Board of Education shall be the chartering entity for charter schools established by referendum.
- The local school board shall notify the state board of the passage of the proposition in favor of establishing a charter school and the state board shall approve the charter within seven days after the Illinois State Board of Elections has certified that a majority of the votes cast upon the proposition is in favor of establishing a charter school.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Indiana

Charter Law

Authorizers (Ind. Code § 20-24-1-2.5)

Governmental

- Subject to IC 20-24-2.2-1.2, a governing body of a school corporation may register with the state board for charter authority within the attendance area of the school corporation.
- The executive (as defined in IC 36-1-2-5) of a consolidated city
- The Indiana Charter School Board

Nongovernmental

- A state educational institution that offers a four-year baccalaureate degree
- Subject to IC 20-24-2.2-1.2, a governing board of a nonprofit college or university that provides a four-year educational program for which it awards a baccalaureate or more advanced degree, including the following:
 - Anderson University, Bethel University, Butler University, Calumet College of St. Joseph, DePauw University, Earlham College, Franklin College, Goshen College, Grace College, Hanover College, Holy Cross College, Huntington University, Indiana Tech, Indiana Wesleyan University, Manchester University, Marian University, Martin University, Oakland City University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Saint Mary's College, Taylor University, Trine University, University of Evansville, University of Indianapolis, University of Notre Dame, University of Saint Francis, Valparaiso University, Wabash College

Appeals

- None

Iowa

Charter Law

Authorizers (Iowa Code § 256F.3)

Governmental

- A school board shall, by a majority vote, approve or deny an application relating to a charter school no later than 60 calendar days after the application is received.
- An application approved by a school board and subsequently approved by the state board shall constitute, at a minimum, an agreement between the school board and the charter school for the operation of the charter school.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Iowa Code § 256F.3)

- An applicant may appeal the school board denial of the applicant's charter school application to the state board in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 290.

Kansas

Charter Law

Authorizers (Kan. Stat. § 72-4208)

Governmental

- The board of education of any school district shall receive and review each petition for the establishment or continuation of a charter school, may grant or renew a charter for operation of the school, and may authorize the establishment of a nonsectarian charter school.
- After the board of education of a school district approves a petition, the state board shall determine whether the charter school can reasonably be expected to accomplish the program goals such charter school established.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Kan. Stat. § 72-4208)

- Within 30 days from the date of the notification of denial, the petitioner may submit a request to the board of education for reconsideration of the petition and may submit an amended petition.

Kentucky

Charter Law

Kentucky charter law was found unconstitutional at time of publication.

Authorizers (Ky. Rev. Stat. § 160.1590; Ky. Rev. Stat. § 160.1593)

Charter school applicants and authorizers who approve charters must send written notice to the state board of education.

Governmental

- A local school board
- A collaboration of local school boards to create a regional charter school
- The mayor of a local consolidated government
- The chief executive officer of an urban county government

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Ky. Rev. Stat. § 160.1593)

- Following receipt of an application, the authorizer has 60 days to either approve or deny the application. Failure to act within 60 days shall be deemed an approval.
- Applicants who are denied may:
 - request technical assistance from the state department of education
 - appeal to the state board of education
- Upon receipt of the appeal, the state board has 45 days to hold a public hearing in the district of the proposed charter school and make its findings.
- If the state board disagrees with the decision to deny, it will remand the case back to the authorizer with instructions to approve the charter.

Louisiana

Charter Law

Authorizers (La. Stat. tit. 17 § 3973)

Governmental

- A local school board
- The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Maine

Charter Law

Authorizers (Me. Stat. tit. 20-A § 2405)

Governmental

- A local school board
 - May also authorize a hybrid model charter school
- The Maine Charter School Commission
 - Is the sole authorizer for virtual charter schools
- A collaboration of local school boards to create a regional charter school

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Maryland

Charter Law

Authorizers (Md. Code Educ. § 9-103)

Governmental

- A local county board of education

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Md. Code Educ. § 9-104)

- If the local county board denies an application, the applicant may appeal to the state board of education.
- If the state board reverses the local county board decision, it will remand the case back to the local county board and may direct the board to grant the charter.

Massachusetts

Charter Law

Massachusetts authorizes two types of charter schools: commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools.

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

Governmental

- The state board of education is the final authorizer of all charter schools. It is the sole authorizer of **commonwealth charter schools** and the secondary and final authorizer of **Horace Mann charter schools**.
 - The board must hold a public hearing within the district where the school will be located before approving a **commonwealth charter school**.

Nongovernmental

- **Horace Mann charter schools** must first be approved by both the local school board and collective bargaining unit of the district in which it is to be located.
 - If a public school is converting into a **Horace Mann charter school**, it only needs a memorandum of understanding with the collective bargaining unit for any applicable waivers to the collective bargaining agreement.

Appeals

- None

Michigan

Charter Law

Called public school academies

Authorizers (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.502)

Governmental

- The board of a school district or intermediate school
- Two or more of the public governmental and nongovernmental agencies (identified in this state profile) jointly operating an interlocal agreement

Nongovernmental

- The board of a community college
- The governing board of a state public university
- Two or more of the above-mentioned public agencies jointly operating an interlocal agreement

Appeals (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.503)

- If an applicant to a local school board is denied, the applicant can petition for the charter to be placed on a local ballot of the district electors. The applicant must obtain five percent of electors signatures on the petition to be placed on the ballot.

Minnesota

Charter Law

Authorizers (Minn. Stat. § 124E.05)

- Entities eligible must first apply to the commissioner for approval as an authorizer before authorizing any charters.

Governmental

- A school board, intermediate school district school board, or an education district

Nongovernmental

- A 501(c)(3) charitable organization if:
 - It is registered with the attorney general's office.
 - It is incorporated in Minnesota and has been operating continuously for at least five years but does not operate a charter school
 - It is not:
 - A nonpublic sectarian or religious institution
 - Any person that directly or indirectly controls or is controlled by a nonpublic sectarian or religious institution
 - Any other charitable organization that describes activities indicating a religious purpose on their Internal Revenue Service documentation

- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonsectarian organization with the sole purpose of chartering schools may authorize if first approved by the state commissioner
- A Minnesota private college that grants either two- or four-year degrees
 - Must be first registered with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to authorize a charter school
- A state college or university governed by the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- The University of Minnesota
- A nonprofit under 501(c)(6) if:
 - The charter has already existed under a previous authorizer for at least three years
 - The nonprofit has existed for at least 25 years

Appeals

- None

Mississippi

Charter Law

Authorizers (Miss. Code § 37-28-5)

Governmental

- The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board is the sole authorizer of charter schools.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Missouri

Charter Law

Authorizers (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.425; Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.426)

All sponsors, except for the Missouri Charter Public School Commission, are required to apply to the state board of education for final approval.

Governmental

- A school board in any district that was sponsoring a charter school as of August 27, 2012, and located in certain school districts or a special administrative board granted authority to operate a school district
- The Missouri Charter Public School Commission
- The mayor of a city not within a county may sponsor a workplace charter school.
 - Workplace charter schools target prospective students whose parent or parents are employed in a specific business district within the city.

Nongovernmental

- A public four-year college or university with an approved teacher education program that meets regional or national standards of accreditation
- A community college that services some portion of the district
 - Any private four-year college or university with an enrollment of at least one thousand students
 - The primary campus must be in Missouri, and it must have an approved teacher preparation program
- Any two-year private vocational or technical school
 - The school must be a 501(c)(3), accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and its primary campus must be in Missouri

Appeals (Mo. Ann. § 160.405)

- An applicant may appeal the decision of a sponsor to the state board of education. Any decision by the state board of education is final.

Montana

Community Choice School Charter Law; Public Charter School Charter Law

Authorizers (Mont. Code § 20-6-804; Mont. Code § 20-11-107)

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

Governmental

- The Montana State Community Choice School Commission authorizes choice schools.
 - Local school boards may apply to the commission for authorizing authority within their geographic boundaries.
- The board of public education is responsible for approving charter proposals for public charter schools.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Mont. Code § 20-11-117)

- None
- For community choice schools in operation, any decision to not renew or revoke a charter contract is appealable to the Montana Community Choice School Commission.

Nevada

Charter Law

Authorizers (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388A.220)

Governmental

- The Nevada State Public Charter School Authority can sponsor charter schools as it is responsible for oversight of any charter schools that it sponsors.
- After first applying to the Nevada Department of Education for authorization, local school boards may sponsor charter schools.

Nongovernmental

- After first applying to the Nevada Department of Education for authorization, public colleges or universities within the Nevada system of higher education.

Appeals (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388A.255)

- If the state public charter school authority denies or fails to act on an application, the applicant must be granted 30 days after receipt of the written notice of denial to correct any issues and resubmit.
- If the state public charter school authority denies an application that has been resubmitted, the applicant may appeal that decision to the district court of the county where the proposed charter school would be located.

New Hampshire

Charter Law

Authorizers (N.H. Rev. Stat. § 194-B:3)

- Charter applications first go to the local school board for approval.
- The New Hampshire State Board of Education provides final approval of local school board-approved applications.

Appeals (N.H. Rev. Stat. § 194-B:3)

- Applicants may appeal a denial by a school board to the state board.
- Applicants may not appeal denials by the state board.

New Jersey

Charter Law

Authorizers (N.J. Stat. § 18A:36A-4)

Governmental

- The New Jersey Commissioner of Education
 - Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner notifies members of the state legislature; school superintendents; mayors; and relevant governing bodies of all legislative districts, school districts, and municipalities.
- The board of education or state district superintendent reviews the application and forwards a recommendation to the commissioner within 60 days of receipt of the application.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (N.J. Stat. § 18A:36A-4)

- The applicant may appeal the decision of the commissioner to the appellate division of the superior court.

New Mexico

Charter Law: Section 22; Charter Law: Title 6

Authorizers (N.M. Stat. § 22-8B-6; N.M. Stat. § 22-8B-16)

Governmental

- A local school board
- Public education commission

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (N.M. Stat. § 22-8B-6; N.M. Stat. § 22-8B-7)

- A charter school that is denied has the right to a hearing by the secretary of education.

New York

Charter Law

Authorizers (N.Y. Educ. Law § 2851)

Governmental

- The local board of education of a school district for a charter school operated within their district
- The Board of Trustees of the State University of New York
- The Board of Regents of New York
 - Is the only entity that may approve the conversion of an existing public school to a charter school

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

North Carolina

Charter Law

Authorizers (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-218)

Governmental

- The North Carolina State Board of Education has the sole ability to approve charter schools.
- Any rule adopted by the state board shall first be recommended by the charter schools review board.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-218.9)

- Applicants may appeal final decisions of the charter schools review board to the chair of the state board of education.

North Dakota

Charter Law

Authorizers (Senate Bill No. 2241, 2025, p. 1)

Governmental

- Public charter school means a public school operating to achieve specific educational objectives according to the charter performance agreement as authorized and overseen by the superintendent of public instruction.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Ohio

Charter Law

Called community schools

Authorizers (Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.016; Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.016; Ohio Rev. Code § 3311.86)

Governmental

- A local board of education
- A local school district that has territory in the same county of the school district of the proposed community school

Nongovernmental

- The governing board of an educational service center
- The board of trustees of a state university or that board's designee

Appeals

- None

Oklahoma

Charter Law

Authorizers (Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 3-132; Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 3-145.7)

Governmental

- A local school district
- The statewide charter school board
 - Beginning July 2024, the statewide charter school board when the applicant is the Office of Juvenile Affairs or has a contract with the Office of Juvenile Affairs
- The statewide virtual charter board has sole authority to authorize virtual charter schools (effective until July 1, 2024, when the statewide virtual charter board will dissolve and combine with the statewide charter school board).

Nongovernmental

- Accredited higher education institutions
- Federally recognized Indian tribes, operating under the authority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Appeals

- None

Oregon

Charter Law

Authorizers (ORS § 338.005)

Governmental

- Local school boards sponsor charter schools located within their districts.
- The Oregon State Board of Education can sponsor charter schools when reviewing an appeal.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (ORS § 338.005)

- An applicant can request that the state board of education review denials.
 - The state board of education can either:
 - Uphold the decision
 - Remand the proposal back to the local school board for reconsideration
 - Authorize the charter school
- An applicant may seek judicial review of the state board of education's decision.

Pennsylvania

Charter Law

Authorizers (24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1717-A; 24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1718-A; 24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1745-A)

Governmental

- Applications to establish a charter school are submitted to the local board of directors of where the charter school will be located.
- Two or more local board of directors can authorize a regional charter school.
 - Requires a majority vote of all the directors of each of the school districts involved
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education can only authorize a cyber charter school.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1717-A; 24 Pa. Stat. § 17-1721-A)

- The decision of the local board of school directors may be appealed to the charter school appeal board.

Puerto Rico

Charter Law

Called “escuela alianza” or partnership school

Authorizers (3 L.P.R.A. § 9813c)

Governmental

- The secretary of education, with the recommendations of an advisory committee, is the sole authorizer of charter schools (escuelas alianza).

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (3 L.P.R.A. § 9813d)

- The denial of an application may be appealed within 30 days. Denied applicants can reapply within one year.

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.”

Authorizers (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-77.2-3)

Governmental

- The Rhode Island Board of Education is the only entity that can authorize charter schools.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-39-1)

- Parties having any matter of dispute under any law relating to schools or education may appeal to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.

South Carolina

Charter Law

Authorizers (S.C. Code § 59-40-40; S.C. Code § 59-103-5; S.C. Code § 59-113-50)

Governmental

- The South Carolina Public Charter School District Board of Trustees
- A local school board

Nongovernmental

- Public or independent institution of higher learning
 - Only institutions of higher learning that register with the South Carolina Department of Education are eligible to serve as sponsors.

Appeals (S.C. Code § 59-40-90)

- A final decision of the school district or institution of higher learning may be appealed by any party to the administrative law court.

Tennessee

Charter Law

Authorizers (Tenn. Code § 49-13-104; Tenn. Code § 49-13-105)

Governmental

- A local board of education
- The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Tenn. Code § 49-13-108)

- Upon receipt of a denied application, the applicant has 30 days to submit an amended application.
- The local school board has 60 days to approve or deny the amended application.
- A denial by a local board of education can be appealed to the Tennessee State Board of Education no later than 10 days after the date of the final decision to deny.
- The state board of education has 60 days from receipt of appeal to conduct a public hearing and make its findings.

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.

Authorizers (*Tex. Educ. Code § 12.101; Tex. Educ. Code § 12.052; Tex. Educ. Code § 12.0521; Tex. Educ. Code § 12.0522*)

Governmental

- The Texas Education Agency Commissioner of Education may authorize open-enrollment charter schools to operate as a commercial or nonprofit entity or on the campus of a public college, university, or community college.
- The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a home-rule school district can grant or deny, through a public vote of the board of trustees or governing body, a charter to parents and teachers for a campus or a program on a campus if the board is presented with a petition signed by both:
 - The parents of a majority of the students at that school campus
 - A majority of the classroom teachers at that school campus
- The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a home-rule school district may grant a charter for:
 - A new district campus
 - A program that has entered into a contract with the district to provide educational services at a facility located in the boundaries of the district

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

Utah

Charter Law

Authorizers (*Utah Code § 53G-5-205*)

Governmental

- The state charter school board
- Local school boards
 - Shall accept or reject an application within 45 of receipt

Nongovernmental

- A technical college board of trustees
- A board of trustees of one of the following institutions in the state system of higher education:
 - The University of Utah;
 - Utah State University;
 - Weber State University;
 - Southern Utah University;
 - Snow College;
 - Utah Tech University;
 - Utah Valley University; or
 - Salt Lake Community College.
- A board of trustees of a private, nonprofit college or university in the state that is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Appeals

- None

Virginia

Charter Law

Authorizers (Va. Code § 22.1-212.9)

Governmental

- The state board of education
- Local school boards
- A consortium of local school boards for regional charter schools

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Va. Code § 22.1-212.9)

- A public charter school applicant whose application was denied, or a charter school whose charter was revoked or not renewed, shall be entitled to petition the local school board for reconsideration. The petition for reconsideration shall be filed no later than 60 days from the date of denial or when the charter agreement was revoked or not renewed. Reconsideration will be decided within 60 days of the date of filing of the petition.

Washington

Charter Law

Authorizers (Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.710.080)

Governmental

- The Washington State Charter School Commission may authorize charter schools located anywhere in the state.
- A school district board of directors may authorize after receiving approval from the state board of education.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals

- None

West Virginia

Charter Law

Authorizers (W. Va. Code, § 18-5G-2)

Governmental

- A county school board
- Two or more county school boards when the public charter school or application to form a public charter school includes a primary recruitment area that encompasses territory in the two or more counties over which the respective boards have jurisdiction
- The West Virginia Board of Education

Nongovernmental

- The West Virginia Professional Charter School Board

Appeals (W. Va. Code, § 18-5G-13)

- A charter applicant or governing board of an existing public charter school may appeal a decision of an authorizer concerning the denial of a charter application or the nonrenewal of a charter contract to the state board within 30 days of the authorizer's decision.

Wisconsin

Charter Law

Authorizers (Wis. Stat. § 118.40)

Governmental

- Whenever a school board intends to establish a charter school, it shall notify the state superintendent of its intention. A notice shall include a description of the proposed school.
- Whenever the common council of the city of Milwaukee intends to establish a charter school, it shall notify the state superintendent of its intention by February 1 of the previous school year. A notice shall include a description of the proposed school.

Nongovernmental

- Whenever one of the entities below intends to establish a charter school, it shall notify the state superintendent of its intention by February 1 of the previous school year. A notice shall include a description of the proposed school.
 - The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 - The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside
 - The Milwaukee Area Technical College District Board
 - Each technical college district board other than the Milwaukee Area Technical College District Board
 - The chancellor of any institution in the University of Wisconsin system (other than the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside)
 - The county executive of Waukesha County
 - The College of Menominee Nation
 - The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

Appeals (Wis. Stat. § 118.40)

- The school board of the school district operating under ch. 119 shall either grant or deny the petition within 30 days after the public hearing. If the school board of the school district operating under ch. 119 denies a petition, the person seeking to establish the charter school may, within 30 days after the denial, appeal the denial to the state department of education. The department shall issue a decision within 30 days after receiving the appeal. The department's decision is final and not subject to judicial review.

Wyoming

Charter Law

Authorizers (Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-302; Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-302.1; Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-302.2)

Governmental

- Local school district boards
- The Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board
 - Shall consist of eight members, three of which are appointed by the superintendent of public instruction. Each member appointed shall have at minimum five years of experience in Wyoming in education.

Nongovernmental

- None

Appeals (Wyo. Stat. § 21-3-310)

- A charter applicant, or any other person who wishes to appeal a decision of a district board concerning a charter school, shall provide the state board and the district board with a notice of appeal within 45 days after receiving the local board's written decision and reasons for denial.