

KANSAS

44

RANK (OUT OF 45)

65

TOTAL POINTS (OUT OF 240)

1994YEAR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL LAW
WAS ENACTED**10**NUMBER OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
2016–2017**3,800**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN 2016–2017

Changes

- ▶ Kansas' score stayed at 65 points.
- ▶ Its ranking moved from No. 43 (out of 44) to No. 44 (out of 45).

Recommendations

- ▶ While Kansas' law does not cap public charter school growth, it allows only district authorizers and provides little autonomy, insufficient accountability, and inequitable funding to charter schools.
- ▶ Kansas' law needs improvement across the board. Potential starting points include expanding authorizing options, beefing up the law in relation to the model law's four quality-control components (Components #6 through #9), increasing operational autonomy, ensuring equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities, ensuring transparency regarding educational service providers, and strengthening accountability for full-time virtual charter schools.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF STRONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW	CURRENT COMPONENT DESCRIPTION	RATING	WEIGHT	TOTAL SCORE
1 No Caps	The state does not have a cap.	4	3	12
2 A Variety of Charter Schools Allowed	The state allows new start-ups and public school conversions.	4	2	8
3 Non-district Authorizers Available	The state law does not provide applicants with access to a non-district authorizer.	0	3	0
4 Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required	The state law includes a small number of the elements of the model law's authorizer and overall program accountability system.	2	3	6
5 Adequate Authorizer Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for adequate authorizer funding.	0	2	0
6 Transparent Charter Application, Review, and Decisionmaking Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for transparent charter application, review, and decisionmaking processes.	1	4	4
7 Performance-based Charter Contracts Required	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for performance-based charter contracts.	1	4	4
8 Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for comprehensive charter school monitoring and data collection processes.	1	4	4
9 Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Revocation Decisions	The state law includes some of the model law's clear processes for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation decisions.	2	4	8
10 Transparency Regarding Educational Service Providers	The state law includes a small number of the model law's provisions for educational service providers.	1	2	2
11 Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Charter School Boards	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for fiscally and legally autonomous schools with independent charter school boards.	0	3	0
12 Clear Student Enrollment and Lottery Procedures	The state law includes some of the model law's requirements for student enrollment and lottery procedures.	2	2	4
13 Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations	The state law allows schools to apply for exemptions from state and district laws and requires all of a school's teachers to be certified.	1	3	3
14 Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption	The state law requires all charter schools to be part of existing collective bargaining agreements, but schools can apply for exemptions.	1	3	3
15 Multischool Charter Contracts and/or Multicharter Contract Boards Allowed	The state law is silent regarding these arrangements.	1	2	2
16 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access	The state law is silent about charter eligibility and access.	1	1	1
17 Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for special education responsibilities.	0	2	0
18 Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable operational funding and equal access to all state and federal categorical funding, and there is no evidence of the amount of funds charter students versus district students receive.	0	4	0
19 Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities	The state law does not include any of the model law's provisions for equitable access to capital funding and facilities.	0	4	0
20 Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems	The state law requires participation in the relevant employee retirement systems.	2	2	4
21 Full-time Virtual Charter School Provisions	The state law does not include any of the model law's requirements for full-time virtual charter schools.	0	3	0