

Charter School Policies - State Profile

October 2010

Maintenance of this database is a collective effort between ECS and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Please contact Molly Ryan, 303.299.3614 or mryan@ecs.org with questions or comments about the database.

Nevada

Charter School Basics

Does the state have a charter school law?	Yes
Does the state allow existing public schools to convert to charter schools?	No
Does the state allow for the creation of start-up charter schools?	Yes
Is a charter school part of a local education agency (LEA) or its own LEA?	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Does the state specify the charter schools or the students that may be given preference?	<p>Yes. If the local school board of the school district in which the charter school is located has established zones of attendance, the charter school must, if practicable, ensure that the racial composition of pupils enrolled in the charter school does not differ by more than 10% 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 Clark County (Las Vegas) board of trustees, except for a program of distance education provided by the charter school, the charter school must enroll eligible pupils for enrollment who reside in the school district in which the charter school is located before enrolling pupils who reside outside the school district.</p> <p>Before a charter school enrolls pupils who are eligible for enrollment, a charter school that is dedicated to providing educational programs and opportunities to pupils who are at-risk may enroll a child who: (1) Is a</p>

	<p>sibling of a pupil who is currently enrolled in the charter school; (2) Was enrolled, by a lottery system, in a pre-K program at the charter school or a program affiliated with the school; (3) Is a child of a person employed full-time by the charter school; (4) Is in a certain category of at-risk pupils and meets the requirements in the charter; or (5) Resides within the school district and within 2 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.</p> <p>If space is available after the charter school enrolls pupils pursuant to the previous paragraph, the charter school may enroll children who reside outside the school district but within 2 miles of the charter school if the charter school is located within in an area that the sponsor of the charter school determines includes a high percentage of children who are at risk. If more students described above are eligible for enrollment than space available, the school must use a lottery system to determine enrollment.</p>
<p>Does the state have any caps on the number of charter schools?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Who can approve charter schools?</p>	<p>A charter applicant may apply to either a local school board or the state board of education. A local school board may apply to the state department of education for authorization to sponsor charter schools within the school district. A charter school application approved by a local school board must also be approved by the state department of education.</p>
<p>Does the state specify who may apply to open a charter school?</p>	<p>Yes. A committee consisting of at least 3 certified teachers who have been employed for at least 2 years as a teacher. A majority of the persons on the committee must be residents of the state at the time the application is submitted.</p>
<p>Is there an appeals process in place for charter applicants?</p>	<p>Yes. A charter school applicant may appeal a local school board's decision to the state board of education's subcommittee on charter schools. The subcommittee makes a recommendation on the application to the state board of education which decides whether to approve or reject the application. If the state board of education denies the application, the charter school applicant may appeal the decision to the district court of the county in which the proposed charter school will be located.</p>

Does the state provide technical assistance to charter schools?	Yes. The state department of education provides technical assistance to charter schools.
Charter School Finance	
Through whom does a charter school receive its funding?	The state
How is the funding for a charter school determined?	100% of per-pupil funding
Does the state provide start-up and/or planning grants to charter schools?	Yes. There may be grants available through a state-created revolving loan.
Does the state provide facilities funds or other facilities assistance to charter schools?	No. However, a charter school may contract with the local school board of the school district in which the charter school is located or the University and Community College System of Nevada for the provision of facilities to operate the charter school. The charter school may also use any public facility in the school district or buildings owned by the school district upon approval of the school board and not during school hours.
Does the state specify who must provide transportation to charter school students?	No. However, a charter school application must include a statement of whether the charter school will provide for the transportation of pupils to and from the charter school. If the charter school will provide transportation, the application must include the proposed plan for the transportation of pupils. If the charter school will not provide transportation, the application must include a statement that the charter school will work with the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the charter school to develop a plan for transportation to ensure that pupils have access to transportation to and from the charter school.
Charter School Autonomy	
Are the state's standards and assessments applied to charter schools?	Yes
What rules are waived for charter schools?	Certain exemptions from particular laws, regulations and policies may be negotiated and specified in charter or requested later through waiver process.
Charter School Teachers	
Do teachers in a charter school have to be certified?	Up to 30% of instructional staff may be non-licensed personnel. In a vocational charter school, up to 50% of

	instructional staff may be non-licensed personnel.
What sets teacher salaries?	The collective bargaining agreement
Does the state require school districts to grant teachers a leave of absence to teach in a charter school?	Yes. Up to 3 years
Do teachers in each of a state's charter schools have equal access to the public school teachers' retirement system?	Yes
Are charter schools bound by school district collective bargaining agreements?	The governing body of a charter school may make all decisions concerning the terms and conditions of employment with the charter school and any other matter relating to employment with the charter school. In addition, the governing body may make all employment decisions with regard to its employees, unless a collective bargaining agreement entered into by the governing body contains separate provisions relating to the discipline of licensed employees of a school. However, an employee who is on a leave of absence from a school district continues, while he is on leave, to be covered by the collective bargaining agreement of the school district only with respect to any matter relating to his status or employment with the district.
Charter School Accountability	
Does the state require charter schools to submit annual reports?	Yes. Charter schools must file annual reports with their sponsors, the superintendent of public instruction and the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the majority leader of the senate and the speaker of the assembly. The reports must include information such as the progress of the charter school in achieving its educational goals and objectives. A charter school that is dedicated to providing educational programs and opportunities for pupils who are at risk must annually submit a report to the sponsor of the charter school that includes demographic information concerning the pupils enrolled in the charter school and other information to demonstrate that the charter school is dedicated to providing educational programs and opportunities to pupils who are at risk in compliance with its written charter.
Does the state list grounds for terminating a school's charter?	Yes. The sponsor of a charter school may revoke a school's charter before the expiration of the charter if the sponsor determines that: (1) The charter school,

	<p>its officers or its employees have failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the charter, generally accepted standards of accounting and fiscal management, the provisions of the state's charter school law, or any other statute or regulation applicable to charter schools; (2) The charter school has filed for a voluntary petition of bankruptcy, is adjudicated bankrupt or insolvent, or is otherwise financially impaired such that the charter school cannot continue to operate; or (3) There is reasonable cause to believe that revocation is necessary to protect the health and safety of the pupils who are enrolled in the charter school or persons who are employed by the charter school from jeopardy or to prevent damage to or loss of the property of the school, district or the community in which the charter school is located.</p>
<p>Does the state provide an appeals process in the charter school renewal process?</p>	<p>No. However, the sponsor must provide written notice of its determination, including a statement of deficiencies/reasons for nonrenewal, and prescribe a period of not less than 30 days during which the charter school may correct deficiencies.</p>
<p>Does the state require the state education agency or another entity to report on the effectiveness of charter schools?</p>	<p>No</p>

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