

## Charter School Policies - State Profile

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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](mailto:mryan@ecs.org) with questions or comments about the database.

Ohio	
Charter School Basics	
Does the state have a charter school law?	Yes
Does the state allow existing public schools to convert to charter schools?	Yes
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 its own LEA.
Does the state specify the charter schools or the students that may be given preference?	Yes. A charter school must give preference to students who attended the school the previous year and to students who reside in the school district in which the school is located. A charter school may give preference to siblings of students who attended the school the previous year. The minority and ethnic enrollment must reflect the community that the charter school serves, and charter schools must comply with any desegregation order in effect.
Does the state have any caps on the number of charter schools?	Yes. 60 charters beyond the number open as of May 5, 2005, with 30 authorized by the district and 30 by a non-district entity; however, operators of charters with a track record of success are not subject to these restrictions.
Who can approve charter schools?	For conversion charter schools, local school boards  For start-up charter schools in "big 8" school districts, "academic emergency" school districts, "academic

	<p>watch" school districts and school districts that are part of the pilot project area: (1) Local school boards; (2) Boards of joint vocational school districts; (3) Boards of educational service centers; (4) State universities, as approved by the state department of education; (5) Federally tax-exempt entities, as approved by the state department of education; or (6) When another authorizer fails to comply with its obligation as a sponsor, the state department of education.</p>
Does the state specify who may apply to open a charter school?	Yes. Any person or group of individuals may apply to open a charter school.
Is there an appeals process in place for charter applicants?	No. Although rejected applicants may apply to other chartering authorities.
Does the state provide technical assistance to charter schools?	Yes. The state department of education is responsible for providing technical assistance to schools, sponsors and proposing parties in developing schools.
<b>Charter School Finance</b>	
Through whom does a charter school receive its funding?	The state
How is the funding for a charter school determined?	A statewide base cost formula with adjustments, which includes a county-level cost of doing business factor
Does the state provide start-up and/or planning grants to charter schools?	Yes. The department of education may make a loan from the Community School Revolving Loan Fund to a start-up community school. The superintendent of public instruction must give priority for such loans to newly established community schools to pay start-up costs.
Does the state provide facilities funds or other facilities assistance to charter schools?	Yes. Charter schools may use loans guaranteed under the Facilities Loan Guarantee Program for the construction of new school buildings.
Does the state specify who must provide transportation to charter school students?	Yes. The school district must provide transportation to resident students attending a charter school within the school district, but is not required to provide transportation to resident students attending a charter school outside the school district.
<b>Charter School Autonomy</b>	
Are the state's standards and assessments applied to charter schools?	Yes

What rules are waived for charter schools?	Except as otherwise specified in the state's charter school law and in the contract between a charter school and a sponsor, a charter school is exempt from all state laws and rules pertaining to schools, school districts, and boards of education, except those laws and rules that grant certain rights to parents.
Charter School Teachers	
Do teachers in a charter school have to be certified?	Yes. However, a charter school may engage noncertificated persons to teach up to 12 hours per week.
What sets teacher salaries?	The collective bargaining agreement or the charter school, depending on the bargaining unit
Does the state require school districts to grant teachers a leave of absence to teach in a charter school?	Yes. A minimum of 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?	For start-up schools, teachers may work independently or form a collective bargaining unit. Conversion schools are subject to a school district's collective bargaining agreement, unless a majority of the charter school's teachers petition to work independently or form their own unit.
Charter School Accountability	
Does the state require charter schools to submit annual reports?	Yes. Charter schools must submit program and financial audits.
Does the state list grounds for terminating a school's charter?	Yes. (1) Failure to meet student performance requirements stated in the contract; (2) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; (3) Violation of any provision of the contract or applicable state or federal law; or (4) Other good cause.
Does the state provide an appeals process in the charter school renewal process?	Yes. Charter schools may appeal to the state board of education.
Does the state require the state education agency or another entity to report on the effectiveness of charter schools?	Yes. By December 31 of each year, the state department of education must issue a report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairpersons of the house and senate education committees. The

report must contain information regarding the effectiveness of academic programs, operations and legal compliance of all community schools, and on the performance of community school sponsors.

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