

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 with questions or comments about the database.

Oklahoma

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 part of an LEA.
Does the state specify the charter schools or the students that may be given preference?	Yes. Students residing in the district where the charter school is located must be given preference. A charter school may also 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 is a geographic area in which 60% or more of the children who reside in the area qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program.
Does the state have any caps on the number of charter schools?	Yes. 6 charters per year (3 in Oklahoma County and 3 in Tulsa County); also charters are only allowed in 10 districts in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties
Who can approve charter schools?	A local school district, an area technology school center school district, or a higher education institute
Does the state specify who may apply to open a charter school?	Yes. A local school board, public body, public or private college or university, private person or private

	organization
Is there an appeals process in place for charter applicants?	Yes. The applicant may submit a revised application for reconsideration to a potential sponsor within 30 days after receiving notification of the rejection. If a potential sponsor rejects the revised application, the applicant may proceed to mediation and/or binding arbitration.
Does the state provide technical assistance to charter schools?	Yes. The state department of education provides technical assistance.
Charter School Finance	
Through whom does a charter school receive its funding?	The school district
How is the funding for a charter school determined?	At least 95% of average daily expenditure
Does the state provide start-up and/or planning grants to charter schools?	Yes. The Charter Schools Incentive Fund provides funding to charter school applicants and charter schools for start-up costs.
Does the state provide facilities funds or other facilities assistance to charter schools?	Yes. The Charter School Incentive Fund provides support for costs associated with renovating or remodeling existing buildings and structures for use by a charter school.
Does the state specify who must provide transportation to charter school students?	Yes. The charter school is responsible for providing transportation, but only within the transportation boundaries of the school district where it is located.
Charter School Autonomy	
Are the state's standards and assessments applied to charter schools?	Yes
What rules are waived for charter schools?	Except as provided for in the state's charter school law and a charter school's charter, a charter school is exempt from all statutes and rules relating to schools, boards of education and school districts. There also are a limited amount of waivers available to charter schools.
Charter School Teachers	
Do teachers in a charter school have to be certified?	Yes, unless a waiver is granted in the charter.
What sets teacher salaries?	The charter school

Does the state require school districts to grant teachers a leave of absence to teach in a charter school?	Yes. 3 years with school district approval
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?	No. However, a charter school may choose to be a part of a collective bargaining agreement.
Charter School Accountability	
Does the state require charter schools to submit annual reports?	Yes. Charter schools are required to annually file a report including, but not limited to, information on enrollment, testing, curriculum, finances and employees.
Does the state list grounds for terminating a school's charter?	Yes. A charter school authorizer may deny the request for renewal if it determines the charter school has failed to complete the obligations of the contract or comply with the provisions of the state's charter schools law. A charter school authorizer may terminate a contract during the term of the contract for failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the contract, failure to meet the standards of fiscal management, violations of the law or other good cause.
Does the state provide an appeals process in the charter school renewal process?	Yes. If a charter school sponsor denies a request for renewal, the charter school governing board may proceed to mediation and/or binding arbitration.
Does the state require the state education agency or another entity to report on the effectiveness of charter schools?	No

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