

DELAWARE

RANK 12, SCORE 21/33



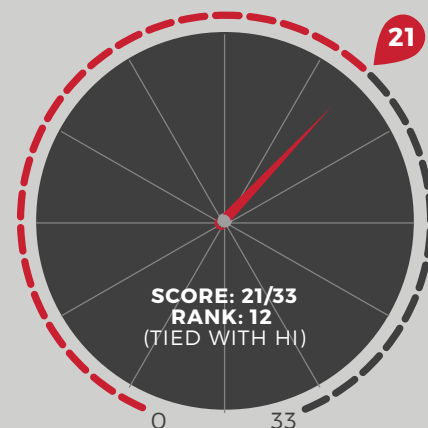
STATE WITH SOME CHARTERS (25-99)
27 CHARTER SCHOOLS
AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (5-9%)



STATE WITH FEW AUTHORIZERS
2 AUTHORIZERS
89% OF SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: 1995



YEARLY COMPARISON

	1. Who Authorizes (6 points)	2. Standards (3 points)	3. Evaluations (3 points)	4. Sanctions (3 points)	5. Reports (3 points)	6. PMR (3 points)	7. Renewals (6 points)	8. Default Closure (6 points)	Total (33 points)
2016	6	3	0	0	3	3	6	0	21/33
2015	6	3	0	0	3	3	6	0	21/33

PUTTING NEW POLICIES TO THE TEST

Delaware is once again accepting applications for new charter schools. New applicants will now have to go through a schools-and-community “impact analysis” to demonstrate the benefits of the proposed school. This is the first time these laws and rules—developed and adopted in 2014-15—will be put into action.

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Consider a default closure policy to make closure the expected outcome for failing charter schools.** This creates a differentiated renewal mechanism that can streamline the renewal process while enforcing a high level of charter school accountability.
- **As the state conducts its first round of reviews under the new application process, review the process and outcome of the new impact analysis and consider if any modifications are needed.** A quality impact analysis process should reflect input from parents and contribute to a high-quality charter sector.
- **Review charter school enrollment policies** to ensure that state law prevents charter schools from establishing undue barriers to enrollment.

THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
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AUTHORIZER QUALITY

Who Authorizes	6/6	LEAs, SEA. For state-approved charters, the Department of Education is referred to as “the approving authority.” The oversight and staff support for authorizing functions are performed by the Department. The Department’s decisions to approve, renew, revoke, or make a material modification to a charter, as well as changes to the performance frameworks and regulations, require the assent of the State Board of Education. Local district authorizer decisions do not require Board approval. For the first time this year, the Department will require applicants to go through an “impact analysis” as part of the application process to demonstrate the benefits of the proposed school. In addition, new charter schools proposing to operate in Wilmington will be subject to additional local screening and approval processes to varying degrees by the local school district.
Authorizer Standards	3/3	Regulations specify that the charter school law is to be implemented with chartering policies and practices consistent with nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter school authorizing in all major areas of authorizing.
Authorizer Evaluations	0/3	State law does not require or provide for the evaluation of authorizers based on standards for quality authorizing.
Authorizer Sanctions	0/3	State law does not provide for authorizer sanctions that restrict the granting of new charters by the authorizer, remove schools from the authorizer’s portfolio, or remove authorizing authority.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Reports on Performance	3/3	State law requires the Department of Education to produce an annual report on charter schools. Regulations require that report to contain an analysis of each charter school’s performance according to its performance frameworks and to post the report on the Department’s public website. In addition, state law requires charter schools to submit annual reports to their authorizer, the Department of Education, and the State Board of Education on their progress in meeting student performance goals. Per regulations, these reports must be publicly accessible on the school’s website.
Performance Management and Replication	3/3	State law requires a charter contract and performance frameworks. The Charter School Performance Fund is available for high-quality schools seeking to expand.
Renewal Standard	6/6	State law requires renewal decisions to be grounded in the performance frameworks. In addition, regulations make renewal contingent on performance according to the school’s performance frameworks.
Default Closure	0/6	State law does not provide for default closure for failure to meet minimum academic standards.

TOTAL POINTS: 21/33, RANK 12 (TIED WITH HI)