

SB 386

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## Methodological Overview

This report is based on a comparison of each state's charter laws and regulations against the Alliance's model charter school law. The model describes 20 essential components of a strong charter school law, and these components are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: The 20 Essential Components of a Strong Public Charter School Law**

1	No Caps
2	A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed
3	Multiple Authorizers Available
4	Authorizer and Overall Program Accountability System Required
5	Adequate Authorizer Funding
6	Transparent Charter Application, Review and Decision-making Processes
7	Performance-Based Charter Contracts Required
8	Comprehensive Charter School Monitoring and Data Collection Processes
9	Clear Processes for Renewal, Nonrenewal and Revocation Decisions
10	Educational Service Providers Allowed
11	Fiscally and Legally Autonomous Schools with Independent Public Charter School Boards
12	Clear Student Recruitment, Enrollment and Lottery Procedures
13	Automatic Exemptions from Many State and District Laws and Regulations
14	Automatic Collective Bargaining Exemption
15	Multi-School Charter Contracts and/or Multi-Charter Contract Boards Allowed
16	Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities Eligibility and Access
17	Clear Identification of Special Education Responsibilities
18	Equitable Operational Funding and Equal Access to All State and Federal Categorical Funding
19	Equitable Access to Capital Funding and Facilities
20	Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems

For each of these components, the model law working group developed sub-components. Each state's laws and regulations were examined to find out if and how they explicitly address the components and sub-components. These analyses then went through a scoring process. The highest score possible was 208. See Appendix A: Methodological Details for more information.

It is important to note this report's focus is to assess whether and how state laws and regulations address the components of the model law, not whether and how state laws and regulations address the components and sub-components, not whether and how current practices in the state address them. The purpose of the analyses is to encourage state laws and regulations to require best practices and to guarantee charter school rights and freedoms. Having quality practices in place by some authorizers and schools within a given state is a good start, but our goal is to ensure quality practices across all such entities. The best way to do that is by enacting strong laws and regulations.

However, there were three notable exceptions to this rule: caps, multiple authorizers and funding. For these components, the analysis incorporated what was happening in practice because we felt it was necessary to do so in order to fairly capture the strength of the law.

It is also important to note the criteria and rubric for three of the model law's 20 components (10, 11 and 20) have been refined. Access to new data about funding also impacted the analysis of two components (18 and 19) in this year's report.