

CALIFORNIA

RANK 29, SCORE 13/33



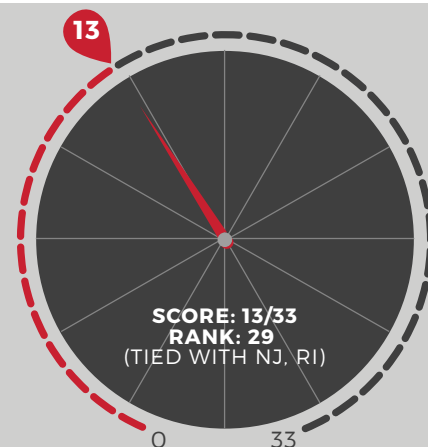
STATE WITH MANY CHARTERS (100+)
1,232 CHARTER SCHOOLS
AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (5-9%)



DISTRICT AUTHORIZING STATE
327 AUTHORIZERS
100% OF SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY LEAS



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: **1997**



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	4	0	0	0	2	1	6	0	13/33
2015	4	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	11/33

PATCHWORK STATE RIPE FOR REFORM

NACSA calls on California to improve its authorizing practices by implementing the top-to-bottom policy recommendations outlined in NACSA's recent policy paper [*Time to Modernize Charter Authorizing in California*](#).

Noteworthy in 2016

Score Increase: +2

- **Reports on Performance (+2).** The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) annual report, part of a new state accountability mechanism implemented during the last three years, requires each charter school to report on its progress on meeting the academic goals in its charter agreement.

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Expand options for high-quality authorizing.** Consider a hybrid state/local approach or regional authorizing bodies. An improved authorizing structure should guarantee that every authorizer wants to be in the business and has the capacity and commitment to do the job correctly.
- **Reinforce authorizer professionalism.** Adopt national industry standards for quality charter authorizing and require authorizers to meet them. Increase transparency through annual reports on high-stakes decisions.
- **Strengthen school-level accountability.** Give authorizers and charter schools the tools needed to create clear agreement on performance expectations and commitments—including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each charter school and renewal decisions based on performance, not promises.
- **Strengthen state oversight and support.** Develop a quality control office to support the State Board of Education's oversight functions. Increase the range of technical support needed for strengthening authorizers' professional practices.

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
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AUTHORIZER QUALITY

Who Authorizes	4/6	LEAs; ¹ SEA on appeal. ² There is extreme variability in the size of California authorizers.
Authorizer Standards	0/3	State law does not adopt, provide, or endorse quality standards for authorizers. However, two voluntary statewide initiatives were launched in 2015 to improve the quality of authorizing practices: the California Authorizers Regional Support Network (CARSNet), a federally funded training and development network for small authorizers, and California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP), a network of support and resources for authorizing professionals.
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	2/3	New in 2016: The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) report template for charter schools requires schools to report on, among other things, the academic performance of their students. These reports are not aggregated by authorizer but are readily available to the public.
Performance Management and Replication	1/3	State law does not require a charter contract or performance frameworks. Multiple schools may be operated under a single charter. Significant education reforms passed in 2013—collectively referred to here as the Local Control Funding Formula reforms—may impact charter school performance management as they are fully implemented during the next several years.
Renewal Standard	6/6	By law, authorizers must consider academic performance as the most important factor when considering renewal. In addition, a charter school may not be renewed unless the school demonstrates academic achievement according to state standards, or the authorizer determines the school's performance is at least equal to the performance of a school in the district in which it is located.
Default Closure	0/6	State law does not provide for default closure for failure to meet minimum academic standards. While the law does set a non-renewal threshold, the law provides authorizers with considerable discretion to renew schools that fail to meet the minimum performance standards, far beyond what NACSA considers reasonable circumstances for exemption. As such, NACSA does not interpret California law as making closure the default or expected consequence for schools that fail to meet minimum academic standards.

TOTAL POINTS: 13/33, RANK 29 (TIED WITH NJ, RI)

¹ LEAs include County Offices of Education. The County Office of Education may authorize on appeal and may also directly authorize schools of countywide benefit.

² California has a two-tiered appeals process. Schools can appeal a decision from the school district to their respective County Office of Education. The County Offices of Education can authorize the school or uphold the denial. If denied by the County Office of Education, the school can then appeal to the State Board of Education (SBE), which can authorize the school or uphold the denial. The SBE can authorize schools of statewide benefit.