

# MARYLAND

**RANK 42, SCORE 2/33**



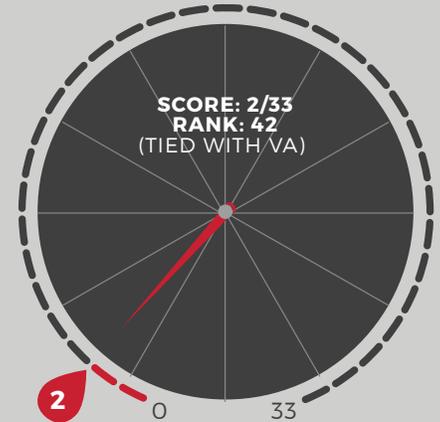
STATE WITH SOME CHARTERS (25-99)  
**53** CHARTER SCHOOLS  
 BELOW AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (0-4%)



**DISTRICT AUTHORIZING STATE**  
**5** AUTHORIZERS  
**100%** OF SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY LEAS



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: **2003**



## 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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2/33
2015	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2/33

## STRIVE FOR CONSISTENCY AND QUALITY IN BUILDING OUT CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

Maryland’s charter school sector has grown despite a particularly weak law. Current policy essentially serves as a “shell law”—a placeholder, ready for additions and improvements to ensure stable, quality, and legally autonomous schools as well as a viable alternative authorizer.

## NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Create legally autonomous schools across the state.** Policy should ensure that all schools in all districts have a legally autonomous governing board and autonomy in crucial areas of school operations.<sup>1</sup>
- **Endorse professional standards for charter school authorizing.**
- **Create a strong renewal standard** that directly links school academic performance to renewal.
- **Require contracts, performance frameworks, and annual performance reports for all charter schools.**

## THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
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### AUTHORIZER QUALITY

Who Authorizes	2/6	LEAs; SEA considers appeals. State law allows the State Board of Education to hear appeals, but the original LEA serves as the authorizer if its decision is reversed on appeal.
Authorizer Standards	0/3	State law does not adopt, provide, or endorse quality standards for authorizers.
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	0/3	State law does not require authorizers to produce an annual public report on the academic performance of their portfolio of schools.
Performance Management and Replication	0/3	State law requires no charter contract, performance frameworks, or replication policy.
Renewal Standard	0/6	State law does not specify provisions for renewing charters.
Default Closure	0/6	State law does not provide for default closure for failure to meet minimum academic standards.

**TOTAL POINTS: 2/33, RANK 42 (TIED WITH VA)**

<sup>1</sup> The governing structure of charter schools and the degree of charter school autonomy vary considerably from school to school and from district to district in Maryland. The law neither explicitly requires nor explicitly precludes charter schools from having a separate, legally autonomous charter school governing board, and it does not automatically grant charter schools a waiver from any local or state laws or regulations. Instead, a charter school must individually apply to its LEA authorizer or the State Board of Education for any autonomies it seeks. The law does additionally require each LEA to develop a charter school policy; in practice, some LEAs have policies that provide additional autonomies. As a result, individual schools may be granted autonomy and operate with the freedom usually found in states with stronger laws.