

# NEW JERSEY

**RANK 29, SCORE 13/33**



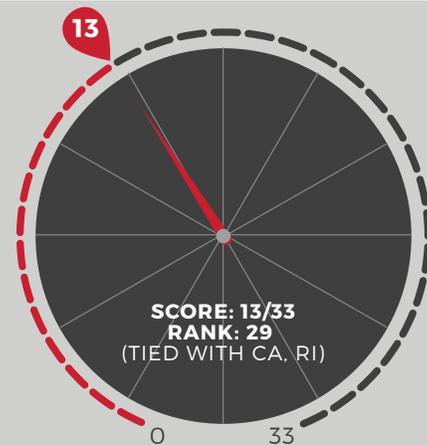
STATE WITH SOME CHARTERS (25-99)  
89 CHARTER SCHOOLS  
BELOW AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (0-4%)



STATE WITH FEW AUTHORIZERS  
1 AUTHORIZER  
100% OF SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY  
THE STATE COMMISSIONER 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	4	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	13/33
2015	4	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	13/33

## WORK TOWARDS BALANCE ON POLICIES

New Jersey is looking to strengthen charter school autonomies through the rulemaking process. This presents an opportunity for the state to revisit and strengthen its quality and accountability policies.

## NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Codify the expectation that the authorizer follows professional standards for charter school authorizing.** The New Jersey Department of Education voluntarily follows NACSA’s Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School *Authorizing*. However, nothing in state policy ensures the Department will continue to do so in perpetuity.
- **Adopt the proposed rule change to require the Department to publicly report on each charter school’s academic performance.** Current rules require all charter schools to prepare annual reports on their academic performance. Rules also require the Department to review annually the performance of each charter school according to the performance frameworks. However, nothing currently in policy requires either the annual reports or the annual reviews to be publicly released.
- **Consider a statewide alternative authorizer, such as an Independent Charter Board.** This additional authorizer would serve as a safety net for the state’s charter sector if electoral changes ever lead to significant reduction or suspension of authorizing activity or commitment by the SEA.
- **Establish authorizer evaluations on an as-needed or self-evaluative basis.** Authorizer self-evaluations require authorizers to reflect on their practices and outcomes and identify areas for improvement.

## THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
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### AUTHORIZER QUALITY

Who Authorizes	4/6	SEA only. New Jersey allows only the State Commissioner of Education to authorize charter schools, although districts are required to make non-binding recommendations. The authorizing staff work is conducted by the New Jersey Department of Education. The level of authorizing activity in the state has historically varied significantly from one commissioner to the next.
Authorizer Standards	0/3	State law does not adopt, provide, or endorse quality standards for authorizers. In practice, the Department of Education has publicly committed to authorizing consistent with NACSA's <i>Principles &amp; Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing</i> .
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 requires the authorizer to conduct an annual review of its charter schools to determine whether they are meeting the goals of their charters. To facilitate that review, charter schools must submit an annual report, which by regulation must include information on their academic performance according to their performance frameworks. However, state policy does not require the information to be made available to the general public. The State Board is now considering a rule change that would require the Department to publicly report on each charter school's academic performance. If this rule is adopted, NACSA anticipates awarding full points in this category.
Performance Management and Replication	3/3	State regulations require a charter contract and performance frameworks. The regulations also provide for an expedited application process for charter applicants with demonstrable experience.
Renewal Standard	6/6	State regulations require the Commissioner of Education to use the performance frameworks to make charter renewal decisions.
Default Closure	0/6	State law does not provide for default closure for failure to meet minimum academic standards.

**TOTAL POINTS: 13/33, RANK 29 (TIED WITH CA AND RI)**