

OHIO

RANK 4, SCORE 32/33



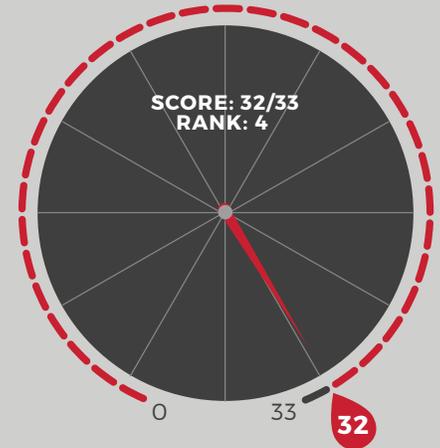
STATE WITH MANY CHARTERS (100+)
373 CHARTER SCHOOLS
 AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT **(5-9%)**



STATE WITH MANY AUTHORIZERS
64 AUTHORIZERS
13 AUTHORIZERS WITH 5 OR MORE SCHOOLS



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	6	3	3	3	3	2	6	6	32/33
2015	6	3	3	3	3	2	6	6	32/33

STRONG POLICIES; TIME FOR BETTER PRACTICES

Ohio must focus on aggressively implementing its strong authorizer and school quality and accountability policies to ensure they translate into an improved charter sector.

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Refine and streamline authorizer evaluations.** After appropriate questions on methodology led to the premature withdrawal of Ohio’s first sponsor ratings, the Department of Education completed its first comprehensive round of evaluations using a revised methodology. These ratings will make authorizing more transparent and trigger consequences for authorizers that do not meet expectations. However, the Department has received feedback that the evaluations measure too many things, diluting the value of the results and creating an onerous system for both the Department and the authorizers. Going forward, the Department should consider ways to streamline its rating methodology to better focus on key indicators of authorizer quality.
- **Through practice, ensure authorizers are using the strong renewal standards afforded them by law.** Ohio law contains multiple provisions concerning renewal; some constitute a strong renewal standard and some constitute a weak renewal standard. Legislation passed in 2015 contained provisions to reinforce the intent that authorizers will use a strong renewal standard. NACSA encourages the state to use guidance, the authorizer evaluation process, and other means to ensure a strong renewal standard is indeed being used.

- **Renew focus on virtual charter school accountability.** Oversight of virtual charter schools has drawn sharp attention this year. Recent reports by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute (examining virtual education in Ohio) and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 50CAN, and NACSA (examining virtual education nationwide) were critical of virtual schools' academic performance. The Ohio Auditor of State has called for funding virtual charter schools based on performance. These developments may impact policy going forward, but Ohio's authorizers should use their existing powers under law to develop sound academic, financial, and operational goals for virtual charters, to hold virtual schools accountable for performance, and to close chronically failing virtual schools.
- **Establish a statewide incentive for the replication of high-performing charter schools.**

THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
AUTHORIZER QUALITY		
Who Authorizes	6/6	LEAs, SEA, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Not-For-Profits (NFPs), Non-Educational Government (NEGs) entities. LEA authorizers include both traditional school districts and regional bodies that can encompass multiple districts. There are 55 LEA authorizers overseeing charter schools across the state, but most LEA authorizers have small portfolios. NFP authorizers and the SEA maintain larger portfolios on average and oversee almost 50% of schools. New-start charter schools in Ohio may be located only in state-designated "challenged" school districts. Ohio statute includes an authorizer application, evaluation, and sanction process. Ohio grandfathered in some existing authorizers, exempting them from the authorizer application process, but this exemption is revoked if the grandfathered authorizer receives low authorizer evaluation ratings for two or more consecutive years.
Authorizer Standards	3/3	State law requires the adoption of NACSA standards.
Authorizer Evaluations	3/3	By law, the Ohio Department of Education must evaluate authorizers on their academic performance, compliance with all applicable laws and administrative rules, and their adherence to quality practices.
Authorizer Sanctions	3/3	State law establishes authorizer sanctions for failing to comply with any charter school contract or for failing to comply with the State Department of Education's rules for authorizing, which pertain to standards for quality authorizing. In addition, authorizers who are rated less than "effective" on the annual authorizer evaluation system due to deficiencies in legal compliance, adherence to quality authorizing practices, or school portfolio performance are also subject to sanctions.

THE SCORE

POLICY **POINTS** **DETAILS & CONTEXT**

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Reports on Performance	3/3	State law and the associated regulations on authorizer evaluations require the production of an annual consolidated report on the performance of schools in each authorizer’s portfolio, including information on academic, operational, and fiscal performance.
Performance Management and Replication	2/3	State law requires a charter contract and requires that each contract include performance standards that relate to the academic, fiscal, and operational performance of the charter school. This is equivalent to performance frameworks. The law does not explicitly encourage or address replication of successful schools.
Renewal Standard	6/6	State law allows authorizers to non-renew or terminate a charter contract if the school fails to meet the student performance requirements in the charter contract. State law also allows “satisfactory progress” to be sufficient for a charter to be renewed. Several amendments to the charter law made in 2015 reinforce the Legislature’s intent that authorizers will enforce a strong renewal standard that is based on achieving student performance expectations. NACSA encourages the state to ensure authorizers are upholding the strong renewal standard specified in law.
Default Closure	6/6	State law requires default closure of schools declared to be in academic crisis, with different standards for different grade configurations. The implementation of the default closure provision has faced challenges when closed schools have successfully engaged in authorizer shopping to remain open. Several provisions adopted in law in 2015 are designed to prevent that behavior.

TOTAL POINTS: 32/33, RANK 4