

WISCONSIN

RANK 24, SCORE 15/33



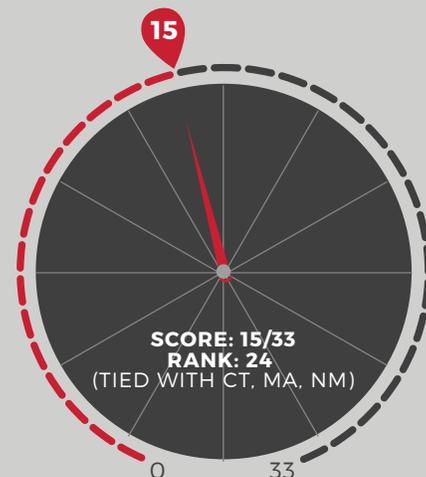
STATE WITH MANY CHARTERS (100+)
244 CHARTER SCHOOLS
 AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (5-9%)



DISTRICT AUTHORIZING STATE
105 AUTHORIZERS
90% OF SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY LEAS



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: **1993**



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	0	0	3	3	0	0	15/33
2015	6	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	15/33

BUILD ON 2015 IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCK IN QUALITY

Wisconsin’s charter law permits a variety of school types and, beginning in 2015, a large number of statewide authorizers. Given this potentially large number of authorizers, the state should strengthen its law with key authorizer quality and school accountability policies to ensure consistency and quality across the sector.

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Institute a strong renewal standard.** Empower authorizers to close schools that fail to achieve the performance goals in their charter contract.
- **Require regular authorizer evaluations.** Requiring authorizers to adhere to NACSA’s *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*, as state law does, is an important step to help ensure authorizing quality. These standards should be reinforced through authorizer evaluations and authorizer sanctions. This is important in a state such as Wisconsin, which has, to date, created a patchwork system of authorizers, each with their own variable jurisdiction. Regular evaluations can identify any deficiencies before they create problems.
- **Ensure that new charter school governing board autonomies, particularly for district-authorized “instrumentality schools,” are implemented to maximize charter school flexibility.** If these are not implemented as such, the state should revisit the status of these schools and explore changing them to some status other than “charter schools.” This would more accurately reflect their relationships to their local school district and their relative lack of autonomy.

THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
AUTHORIZER QUALITY		
Who Authorizes	6/6	LEAs, Non-Educational Government (NEGs) entities, statewide and limited-jurisdiction Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Wisconsin's charter school law distinguishes three types of brick-and-mortar charter schools based on their type of authorizer. ¹ While LEAs authorize a vast majority of Wisconsin's charter schools, schools authorized by LEAs have historically lacked significant autonomy. ² Schools authorized by non-LEAs have had higher autonomy more consistent with the autonomy expected in the charter school sector. Legislation passed in 2015 creates new governance board duties and powers that should increase autonomies for all charter school types. Six entities in Wisconsin are empowered to authorize statewide: The City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and the College of Menominee National and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (which may authorize up to six charter schools between them). Three entities may authorize in limited jurisdictions: the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents may authorize charter schools in Madison and Milwaukee school districts; Gateway Technical College may authorize in the Gateway Technical College District; and the County Executive of Waukesha County may authorize in Waukesha County only.
Authorizer Standards	3/3	State law requires authorizers to adhere to the <i>Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing</i> established by NACSA.
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	3/3	State law requires authorizers to produce an annual public report on the academic and financial performance of their portfolio of schools.
Performance Management and Replication	3/3	State law requires the use of a charter contract and performance frameworks. Charter contracts must include a provision that allows the governing boards of top-rated charter schools to open additional campuses, thereby encouraging replication of high-quality charter schools.
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: 15/33, RANK 24 (TIED WITH CT, MA, NM)

¹ "2r" charter schools are authorized by NEGs or HEIs and do have significant autonomy. "Non-instrumentality" charter schools are authorized by school districts and may have significant autonomy. "Instrumentality" charter schools are authorized by school districts and historically lack most traditional charter school autonomies.

² That is because most of the district-authorized charter schools are instrumentality charter schools.