

WYOMING

(Law passed in 1995; 6th weakest of the nation's 43 charter laws)



Because only school boards can sponsor charter school applications, there are still, after 20 years, only four quasi-charters operating in the state. Until there are multiple authorizers, or at least a binding appeals process, expect charter growth – and new options for parents and students – to be slow going.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

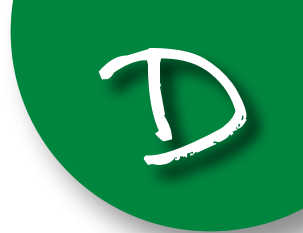
APPROVAL	School boards are the only authorizer in the state.
APPEAL	No. Applications denied by the school board may be appealed to the State Board of Education for review, but its decision is only binding after the second appeal.

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited. Waiver requests from rules and regulations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted, but schools must receive written consent by local board prior to contract agreement.
LOCAL	No. A school district may waive local rules and regulations without seeking approval of the state board, but rarely do so.
TEACHER FREEDOM	No. Teachers remain part of the district and are subject to district work rules, but charters are not bound by collective bargaining agreements. Charter schools must participate in state's retirement system.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	No legal limit on number of schools that may be approved.
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EQUITY

<p>STUDENT FUNDING</p>	<p>Funds pass through the district to the charter school. Funding is inequitable because decisions are left up to the school district to negotiate with the charter school. The law states that charter schools are entitled to 100 percent of the foundation program funding amount computed under state law based “average daily membership” and 100 percent of the charter’s proportion of major maintenance payments. However, there is no way to hold districts accountable to this statute. The state has no legal authority over the local board and the distribution of funds to charter schools.</p> <p>“Each student attending a charter school shall be counted among the average daily membership of the school district in which the school is located and the school shall be included in the district’s configuration of schools reported to the state superintendent under W.S. 21-13-309(m)(iv). Average daily membership of the charter school shall be calculated as follows:</p> <p>(c) As part of the charter school contract, the charter school and the school district shall agree on funding and any services to be provided by the school district to the charter school. The charter school and the school district shall begin discussions on the contract using the following revenue assumptions:</p> <p>(i) The charter school shall be entitled to the benefit of one hundred percent (100%) of the foundation program amount computed under W.S. 21-13-309(m) based upon the average daily membership of the charter school, less any district level amounts generated by the charter school’s membership under W.S. 21-13-309(m) and less amounts specified under W.S. 21-13-309(m)(v)(E).” Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-3-314 (West)</p>
<p>FACILITIES FUNDS</p>	<p>No Additional Funds.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

<p>- 3</p>	<p>Three points are deducted because the state has imposed a de facto cap by not encouraging or working to improve charter environment.</p>
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[LINK TO THE WYOMING CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)