

## Charter Schools: The Path of Funding

(In order of strength of charter laws)

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### Strong Laws

1. **Arizona**—For charter schools authorized by local school boards, through district to charter school; for other charter schools, through county treasurer's office to school. *Amount:* If authorized by school district, specified in charter; others determined by same formula used for all district schools.
2. **Michigan**—Through chartering authority to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
3. **District of Columbia**—Directly to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
4. **Delaware**—State portion flows directly to charter school; district portion flows from district to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
5. **Massachusetts**—From the state directly to charter schools via deduction from state aid to affected districts. *Amount:* 100% unless in wealthy district.
6. **Minnesota**—Directly to charter school. *Amount:* State portion follows student, district portion is lost.
7. **New York**—Through district to charter school, mandates that all funds follow. *Amount:* 100%
8. **North Carolina**—State funds flow directly to charter school; local funds pass through district to charter school. *Amount:* 100%, plus special needs funding.
9. **Texas**—For district-approved charters, through district to charter school; for open-enrollment charters, directly to school from the state. *Amount:* 100% for open-enrollment schools, specified in charter for district-approved schools.
10. **California**—Receive funding directly from the state. *Amount:* 100%
11. **South Carolina**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
12. **Colorado**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* At least 80%, other 20% is negotiated between charter school and district.
13. **Florida**—Through district to charter school (district is merely a pass-through agent). *Amount:* 100%
14. **Louisiana**—Through the district for charter schools approved by the local school board; through the state for schools approved by the state board of education. *Amount:* 100%
15. **Missouri**—From the district unless they don't do it in a timely fashion, in which case the state funds the school and debits the district. *Amount:* 100%

16. **Pennsylvania**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Depending on the district, funding will be 70-82%; additional funding for special-needs students.
17. **New Jersey**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* 90% of lesser of; a) state and district operations funding based on average district per-pupil revenue, or; b) state-mandated minimum per-pupil spending.
18. **Wisconsin**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Negotiated in charter; district is permitted to spend *more* on charters than regular public schools.

### Weak Laws

19. **New Hampshire**—From district to charter school. *Amount:* Minimum of 80%, special education funding also follows students.
20. **Illinois**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Not less than 95% or more than 105%.
21. **Georgia**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Specified in charter.
22. **Connecticut**—For local charters, through district to charter school; for state charters, directly to charter school. *Amount:* For local charters, specified in charter; for state charters, 105%.
23. **Ohio**—State Department of Education. *Amount:* Formula for that county, plus other money for special needs.
24. **Idaho**—Through the district. *Amount:* Complicated and not guaranteed.
25. **Utah**—From state to school and district to school. *Amount:* On average, 75%.
26. **Alaska**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
27. **Nevada**—From state superintendent to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
28. **Rhode Island**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
29. **Wyoming**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Specified in charter.
30. **Virginia**—From district. *Amount:* Basic funding not addressed; charters treated as public school with fees negotiated.
31. **Kansas**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Discretion of district.
32. **Hawaii**—From state to charter school (there are no local school districts in Hawaii). *Amount:* Determined annually, based on per-pupil funding but not guaranteed.
33. **New Mexico**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* 100%
34. **Arkansas**—Through district to charter school. *Amount:* Specified in charter.
35. **Mississippi**—From district. *Amount:* Basic funding not addressed; no additional funds appropriated.