

ARKANSAS

RANK 29, SCORE 12/33



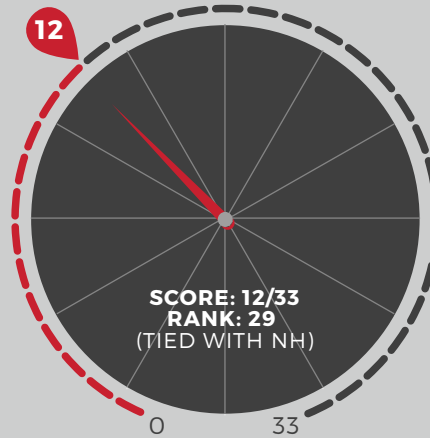
45 CHARTER SCHOOLS
19,179 CHARTER STUDENTS
4% OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS



STATE WITH FEW AUTHORIZERS
1 AUTHORIZER
100% ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE BOARD 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)
2015	4	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	12/33
2014	4	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	12/33

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Endorse professional standards for charter school authorizing.**
- **Establish an autonomous Independent Charter Board** that includes members outside the Department of Education. An Independent Charter Board could focus solely on authorizing high-quality charter schools.
- **Require the authorizer to use performance frameworks.** Performance frameworks set academic, financial, and organizational performance expectations for each charter school.
- **Require the authorizer to issue annual public reports on the academic performance of its portfolio of charter schools.**
- **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
AUTHORIZER QUALITY		
1. Who Authorizes	4/6	SEA only. Arkansas allows only the State Board of Education to authorize new-start charter schools. State law establishes the Charter Authorizing Panel, an internal body established to review charter school applications and renewal requests. Members of the Panel are appointed by the Commissioner of Education and must be employees of the Department of Education. In addition, the State Board of Education may choose to review decisions made by the Department of Education and may affirm them, request additional information, or take other actions. Conversion charter schools must first be approved by their LEA and then be authorized by the SEA (dual approval).
2. Authorizer Standards	0/3	State law does not adopt, provide, or endorse quality standards for authorizers.
3. Authorizer Evaluations	0/3	State law does not require or provide for the evaluation of authorizers based on standards for quality authorizing.
4. Authorizer Sanctions	0/3	State law does not allow 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		
5. Reports on Performance	0/3	State law does not require authorizers to produce an annual public report on the academic performance of their portfolio of schools.
6. Performance Management & Replication	2/3	State law requires a charter contract but not a performance framework. The law requires a differentiated process for replicating proven successful schools.
7. Renewal Standard	6/6	State law allows an authorizer to place a school on probation or revoke its charter for failure to meet academic or fiscal performance criteria.
8. Default Closure	0/6	State law does not provide for default closure for failure to meet minimum academic standards.

TOTAL POINTS: 12/33, RANK 29 (TIED WITH NH)