

INDIANA

RANK 1, SCORE 33/33



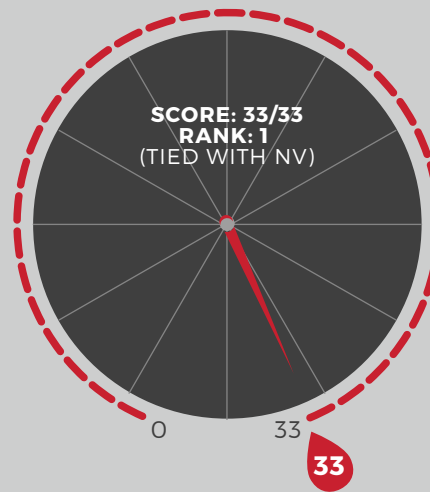
79 CHARTER SCHOOLS
37,448 CHARTER STUDENTS
4% OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS



STATE WITH MANY AUTHORIZERS
7 AUTHORIZERS
3 AUTHORIZERS WITH 5 OR MORE SCHOOLS



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: 2001



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	6	3	3	3	3	3	6	6	33/33
2014	6	3	0	3	3	2	6	6	29/33

NOTEWORTHY IN 2015

SCORE INCREASE: +4

Authorizer Evaluations (+3). New law in 2015 establishes an authorizer application process for new Higher Education Institution authorizers to be conducted by the State Board of Education. Potential new authorizers must demonstrate their commitment to quality authorizing and charter school accountability through several application requirements and assurances. The State Board may grant six-year contracts to new authorizers, with contract extensions contingent on specified performance terms.

Performance Management and Replication (+1: Performance Frameworks). New authorizers must use a performance framework. In addition, new and existing authorizers must make renewal decisions based on a school's performance according to the performance framework in a charter contract.

Indiana added provisions to prevent authorizer shopping, which is when charter schools change authorizers to avoid closure or scrutiny.

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- *Indiana has all of NACSA's recommended policies in law.*

THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
AUTHORIZER QUALITY		
1. Who Authorizes	6/6	LEA, Higher Education Institution (HEI), Independent Charter Board (ICB), Non-Education Government entity. ¹ In practice, there are nine active authorizers of varying sizes, with Ball State University, the Mayor of Indianapolis, and the Indiana Charter Board (an ICB) each maintaining mid-sized to large portfolios that account for most of the 75 charter schools in the state. State law allows state HEIs offering four-year undergraduate degrees and 30 different not-for-profit HEIs to become active authorizers at any time. New in 2015: New authorizers after 2015 must apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for the authority to authorize charter schools. The SBE evaluates the application and can decide to grant authorizing authority for a six-year term.
2. Authorizer Standards	3/3	State law requires all authorizers to adopt standards for quality charter school authorizing.
3. Authorizer Evaluations	3/3	New in 2015: New authorizers must be approved through an authorizer application process conducted by the SBE. These authorizers must meet various quality assurances to continue authorizing after that initial term.
4. Authorizer Sanctions	3/3	By law, an authorizer may be sanctioned if the SBE has intervened to close or transfer 25% or more of its schools.
SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY		
5. Reports on Performance	3/3	State law requires authorizers to produce an annual public report that includes all testing, growth, and improvement data for each charter school.
6. Performance Management & Replication	3/3	State law requires a charter contract. Boards holding multiple charters may apply to consolidate tuition distributions within the state, mirroring an attribute of multi-campus charters. New in 2015: New authorizers must use a performance framework. In addition, new and existing authorizers must make renewal decisions based on a school's performance according to the performance framework in a charter contract.
7. Renewal Standard	6/6	By law, renewal requires meeting minimum academic standards. In addition, an authorizer shall make renewal decisions based upon evidence of the school's performance over the term of the charter contract.
8. Default Closure	6/6	By law, a school remaining in the lowest state group—or with a designation of School Improvement—in the third year after its initial placement in the lowest group, shall be closed.

TOTAL POINTS: 33/33, RANK 1 (TIED WITH NV)

¹The Mayor of Indianapolis is the only Non-Education Government entity that may authorize charter schools.