

SOUTH CAROLINA

RANK 9, SCORE 25/33



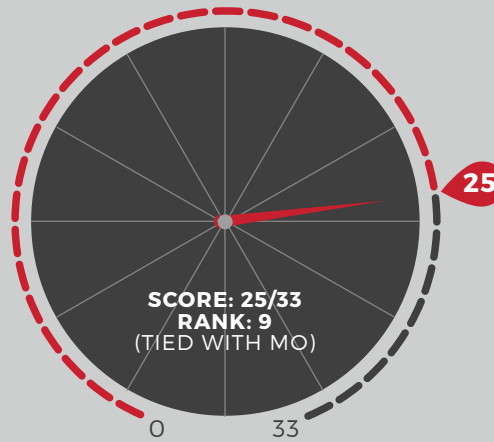
66 CHARTER SCHOOLS
27,191 CHARTER STUDENTS
4% OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS



DISTRICT AUTHORIZING STATE
18 AUTHORIZERS
54% ARE AUTHORIZED BY LEAs



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: 1996



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	0	0	3	1	6	6	25/33
2014	6	3	0	0	3	1	6	6	25/33

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Require all authorizers to use performance frameworks.**
- **Empower a state entity to conduct authorizer evaluations, as needed.** As the South Carolina Public Charter School District has grown, the disparities in practices among authorizers have become more apparent. An evaluation would allow the State to identify authorizers in need of improvement based on their practices or the performance of their portfolios of charter schools.
- **Consider adopting authorizer screening and sanction policies if alternative authorizers continue to expand.** The activation of South Carolina State University as an authorizer, the first Higher Education Institution in the state to do so, has proven that additional alternative authorizers may indeed become a part of the charter school landscape. As such, the state will benefit from additional authorizer quality initiatives, such as authorizer applications or other screening processes, such as those adopted in Minnesota or Indiana. These initiatives are quality control measures that ensure only authorizers with a commitment to quality are allowed to authorize. These policies would prevent authorizer shopping activities from eroding charter school accountability, a problem in states with more than two non-LEA authorizers.

THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
AUTHORIZER QUALITY		
1. Who Authorizes	6/6	LEA, Independent Charter Board, Higher Education Institution. South Carolina's authorizing sector is in transition, with currently 59% of schools authorized by LEAs and 41% of charter schools authorized by the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD), the state's Independent Charter Board created in 2007. NACSA anticipates that the SCPCSD will eventually authorize a majority of the state's charter schools. The SCPCSD is the only authorizer of statewide full-time virtual schools New in 2015: South Carolina State University is active and is accepting charter school applications.
2. Authorizer Standards	3/3	State law requires the adoption of professional standards.
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	3/3	By law, authorizers must annually compile all school reports on performance and submit them to the State Department of Education.
6. Performance Management & Replication	1/3	State law requires a charter contract but not a performance framework. The law does not explicitly encourage or address replication of successful schools.
7. Renewal Standard	6/6	By law, charter schools must not be renewed if they fail to meet academic performance standards.
8. Default Closure	6/6	State law requires default closure for charter schools that are in the state's lowest performance level for three consecutive years.

TOTAL POINTS: 25/33, RANK 9