

APPENDICES

A. CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY MATRIX BY STATE

STATE	TYPE OF AUTHORIZER(S)	LEGAL STATUS	TYPE OF LINKAGE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION ¹	STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA
Alaska	LEA	Part of an LEA	Partial link	Combination of funding formula types
Arizona	State charter school board; Local school districts	LEA	No link Partial link (LEA chartered)	Multiple student weights
Arkansas	SEA charter authorizing panel	Open-enrollment schools are LEAs Conversion schools are part of an LEA	Open-enrollment schools are no link Conversion schools are total link	No separate funding formula for special education; instead, special education dollars are included in the general fund
California	LEAs or county offices of education	LEA Part of LEA for the purposes of IDEA	No link Partial link	Census-based
Colorado	LEAs; Independent chartering board	Part of an LEA	Total link	Multiple student weights

¹ Charter schools link with traditional LEAs in different ways to serve students with disabilities. Linkage may be determined by statute or by choice. LEA status and linkage determine how charter schools receive federal, state, and local funding for special education services. Special education funding may flow:

1. to charter schools directly (**no link**) - A charter school that is its own LEA has full responsibility for special education, receives federal and state funds directly from the state, and usually has no link to the traditional LEA;
2. to traditional LEAs for distribution to charter schools (**total link**) - If a charter is part of a traditional LEA, that LEA is responsible for the students with disabilities enrolled in the charter school. The LEA receives all federal, state, and local dollars, which it allocates to charter schools directly or in the form of services; or
3. a combination of the above (**partial link**) depending on the type of funding involved - A charter school may have a required or negotiated connection with the traditional LEA. The terms of partial link relationships vary across states, with state charter law typically dictating how federal, state, and local dollars are allocated relative to services provided.

STATE	TYPES OF AUTHORIZER(S)	LEGAL STATUS	TYPE OF LINKAGE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION	STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA
Connecticut	State board of education	Part of an LEA	Total link	No separate special education funding; funding formula rolls special education costs into general funding
Delaware	LEA or state department of education for start-ups; LEA for conversions	LEA	No link	Resource-based
District of Columbia	State public chartering board	LEA Part of LEA for the purposes of IDEA	No link Partial link	Single student weight
Florida	LEA	Part of an LEA	Partial link	Multiple student weights
Georgia	State board of education; LEA	Part of an LEA	Total link for charters authorized through the LEA	Multiple student weights
	State chartering commission	LEA	No link for charters authorized as their own LEAs	
Hawaii	State public chartering commission Public and private postsecondary schools, county or state agencies, and nonprofit organizations may apply to the board of education for chartering authority	Part of an LEA	Partial link	No separate special education funding formula; special education funds are rolled into the general fund instead
Idaho	LEA	Part of an LEA	Total link	Census-based
Illinois	State public chartering board State public chartering commission	LEA LEA	No link No link	Funding formula is based on a combination system
	LEA	Part of an LEA	Partial link	

STATE	TYPES OF AUTHORIZER(S)	LEGAL STATUS	TYPE OF LINKAGE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION	STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA
Indiana	LEAs; State public chartering board; Public and nonprofit universities; Executive of a consolidated city	LEA	No link	Multiple student weights
Iowa	LEA State board of education	Part of an LEA	Partial link	Multiple student weights
Kansas	LEA	Part of an LEA	Total link	Resource-based
Louisiana	State board of education LEA	LEA Part of an LEA	Partial link	Single student weight
Maine	Local school board within an administrative unit; A collaborative of approved authorizers; State charter school commission	Part of an LEA LEA	Total link	Single student weight
			No link	
Maryland	LEA; State board of education under limited circumstances	Part of an LEA	Partial link	Combination system
Massachusetts	State board of education (commonwealth type); LEA + local teacher union + state board (Horace Mann type)	LEA Part of an LEA	No link	Census-based
			Total link	
Michigan	Intermediate school board; Board of a community college or of a state public university; Entity created by two authorizers through an inter-local agreement	LEA Part of an LEA	No link	Percentage reimbursement system
			Total link	
Minnesota	LEA School board; Intermediate school district board or education district Eligible nonprofit organization	LEA LEA	Partial link	Percentage reimbursement system
Mississippi	College or university; Single-purpose authorizers Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board	LEA	No link	Resource-based

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Missouri	1) The local school district in which the charter will reside	LEA	No link	No separate special education funding formula; special education funds and expenses are included with general funds and expenses
	2) A four-year college or university or a community college with its primary campus in Missouri	Part of an LEA	Partial link	
	3) Special administrative board of the St. Louis School District			
	4) State public chartering commission			
Nevada	LEA county school districts; Colleges and universities within the Nevada System of Higher Education; State public chartering commission	Part of an LEA	Partial link	Single student weight
New Hampshire	State	Part of an LEA	Total link	Single student weight
	LEA			
New Jersey	Commissioner of education	LEA	Partial link	Census-based
New Mexico	Public education commission;	LEA	No link	Multiple student weights
	Local school board		Partial link	
New York		Part of an LEA		Single student weight
	State University trustees; Board of Regents; LEA (with subsequent approval by the board of regents)	Part of an LEA	Partial link	
North Carolina	State board of education	LEA	No link	Single student weight
	LEA; Other LEA in the same county; Educational service center; LEA of a joint vocational district; 13 state universities named in the law	LEA	No link	Multiple student weights

STATE	TYPES OF AUTHORIZER(S)	LEGAL STATUS	TYPE OF LINKAGE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION	STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA
Oklahoma	LEA;	LEA	No link	Multiple student weights
	Higher education entities career tech centers;		Partial link	
	Federally recognized tribes			
Oregon	LEA and state board of education by appeal	Part of an LEA	Total link	Single student weight
Pennsylvania	LEA; SEA	LEA and SEA	No link	Census-based (16%)
Rhode Island	State board of education after recommendation from the commissioner	LEA	No link	No separate special education funding formula; special education funding is included with all other funding
South Carolina	LEA ;	Part of an LEA	Partial link	Multiple student weights
	State (public charter school district)		Total link	
Tennessee	LEA	Part of an LEA	Partial link, total link	Resource-based
Texas	State authorizes open- enrollment charter schools	LEA	No link for open- enrollment charters	Multiple student weights
	LEA authorizes campus charter schools	Part of an LEA	Total link for campus charters	
Utah	LEA; State public chartering board;	LEA	No link for state board charters	Block grants
	Select institutions of higher education		Partial link for LEA charters	
Virginia	LEA	Part of an LEA	Total link	Resource-based
Washington	State public chartering commission; District boards of directors	LEA	No link	Single student weight
Wisconsin	LEAs are primary authorizers	Part of an LEA	Total link	Percentage reimbursement

	Higher education institutions	LEA	No link	
Wyoming	LEA	Part of an LEA	Total link	Percentage reimbursement

**Note: In 2015, the Washington State Supreme Court issued a ruling that the state charter school law was unconstitutional due to charter schools not meeting the definition of “common schools.” The state’s charter school law remained invalidated for that year. Bipartisan legislation in 2016 reestablished the state’s charter school.*