

Ohio charter laws ranked 24th by CER

The Center for Education Reform (CER) recently released its *National Charter School Law rankings and Scorecard 2018* – assigning Ohio a grade of “C” and ranking it 24th among the 44 states and District of Columbia with charter school laws.

The grades and rankings are based on four categories:

Authorizing — Ohio scores six out of 15 points, with CER citing concerns regarding heavy regulation of charter schools through the Ohio Department of Education’s (ODE) sponsor evaluation system.

Growth — Ohio earns seven of 15 points, with CER citing restrictions associated with most charters being limited to the Big 8 school districts and with e-school caps.

Operations — Ohio earns 12 of 20 points, with CER noting that although charter schools receive blanket waivers from state and local laws, ODE’s heavy regulation of sponsors creates an environment in which schools have far less autonomy than the law prescribes.

Funding equity — Ohio earns seven of 15 possible points, with CER citing low per pupil funding levels (as compared to traditional public schools) and very limited facilities funding.

CER has researched, analyzed and ranked state charter school laws, noting the connection between effective public policy and charter school quality, since 1996.

