

# FOCUSED REPORT—Legal Status

## Background Information

Under federal statutes, a Local Education Agency (LEA) is an entity with the authority and responsibility to operate public schools. In most states, a traditional LEA is called a school district.

A charter school may be classified as its own LEA or part of a traditional LEA (school district). LEA status can affect how charter schools receive federal, state, and local funds for regular and/or special education purposes.

Typically, charter schools who are their own independent LEAs receive federal and state funds directly from the state. Charter schools that are part of a traditional LEA usually receive funding and/or services via the traditional LEA.

In some states, the law prescribes a specific LEA status or allows for a combination of the two options. In others, the charter school (or its authorizer) is permitted to choose.

This report lists the LEA status of charter schools in each state.

\*Note: states with no charter law are not included in this table.

## LEA Status by State

State	Independent LEA	PART OF AN LEA	HYBRID	CHOICE
Alabama	✓			
Alaska		✓		
Arizona	✓			
Arkansas	✓	✓		
California	✓	✓		✓
Colorado		✓		
Connecticut	✓	✓		
Delaware	✓			
D.C	✓	*See full report		
Florida		✓		
Georgia	✓	✓		
Hawaii		✓		
Idaho	✓	✓		
Illinois	✓	✓		
Indiana	✓			
Iowa		✓		
Kansas		✓		

LEA Status by State (cont.)				
State	LEA (DISTRICT)	PART OF AN LEA	HYBRID	CHOICE
Kentucky		✓		
Louisiana	✓	✓		
Maine	✓	✓		
Maryland		✓		
Massachusetts	✓			
Michigan	✓			
Minnesota	✓			
Mississippi	✓			
Missouri	✓			
Nevada	✓	✓		
New Hampshire	✓	✓	✓	
New Jersey	✓			
New Mexico	✓	✓		
New York			✓	
North Carolina	✓			
Ohio	✓			
Oklahoma	✓	✓		
Oregon		✓		
Pennsylvania	✓			
Rhode Island	✓			
South Carolina		✓		
Tennessee		✓		
Texas	✓	✓		
Utah	✓	✓		
Virginia		✓		
Washington	✓			
Wisconsin			✓	
Wyoming		✓		