



## Certification Requirements for Charter School Leaders across America

Of the 35 states for which we have data at the moment, 28 states do not require their charter school leaders to be certified. The other seven states have such a requirement in place.

<u>State</u>	<u>Are Charter School Principals Required to be Certified?</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Alabama	No	
Alaska		
Arizona	No	
Arkansas	No	The answer to your question is no, if they have a waiver.
California	No	
Colorado	No	As long as they have the appropriate waiver.
Connecticut	Yes	1/2 of teachers, administrators and other pupil services employees must be either traditionally certified or have a "charter school educator permit" and have received a waiver from the Commissioner of Education.
Delaware	No	That is something that we 'fight' with our authorizer over some. The regulation says Principals need to be certified – BUT not School Leaders. We contend that if the Principal doesn't care about certification (there is a requirement to have the state's evaluation system used, etc, etc), then they are a School Leader, much like a Superintendent. AND because DE doesn't give charters the same Superintendent funding that they give to Districts we say that it is not necessary. So far the authorizer has agreed with us and not fought us too hard on it.
DC		
Florida	No	
Georgia	No	
Hawaii	No	
Idaho	Yes	
Illinois	No	

Indiana	No	Statute says that school personnel must hold a license for any similar position in a traditional public school. However, charter schools tend to call principals something else (such as CEO), which allows them to not be certified.
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky	No	
Louisiana	No	Nope... no one is required to be certified... just a b.a. degree.
Maine	No	
Maryland		
Massachusetts	No	
Michigan	Yes	
Minnesota	No	
Mississippi	No	No, they are not required to be certified. However, they must have a bachelor's degree. Also, if they are the founding principle and are identified at the time of the interview, they will need to convince the evaluators that they are qualified in some way.
Missouri	No	
Nevada	Yes	A person employed as an administrator must possess: a teacher's license, Masters degree in school administration and at least 5 years of experience in school administration, public administration or business administration and a baccalaureate degree.
New Hampshire	No	In New Hampshire traditional public school principals & superintendents are licensed/credentialed positions. Some charter school administrators hold these credentials and they use the term "principal." However, some do not and we refer to them as Head of School, ED, etc. The law does not require a charter school's leader to hold principal certification.
New Jersey	Yes	The regulations require "professional support staff" to hold the appropriate New Jersey certification.
New Mexico	Yes	All school staff must follow the state school personnel act and principals must have a Level III teacher license, Masters in School Leadership, and hold an administrative license.
New York	No	
North Carolina	No	
Ohio	No	State charter law does not require that charter school leaders be certified unless they designate

		themselves as a "principal." Most schools call their leaders a chief executive officer and stay away from the official principal title. The ones who do call themselves principal tend to come from the traditional public school sector and already have the certification.
Oklahoma	No	
Oregon		
Pennsylvania	Yes	Anyone who became a principal or assistant principal after January 1, 2008, is required to complete the Principals Induction Program within five years of their date of hire from programs that are Pennsylvania Department of Education certified.
Rhode Island	Yes	The RI Department of Education recently put out guidance that charter school leaders or "principals" must have a school administrator certification. However, it depends upon the job functions of the position that define whether someone is the "principal".
South Carolina	No	
Tennessee	No	
Texas	No	All new charter school Campus Administrators are required to complete a total of 10 hours of training provided by a Texas Department of Education registered trainer within their first year of service. Returning Campus Administrators, however, who have completed the 10 hour training requirement within their first year of service need to complete only five hours of training in their second and subsequent years. Higher performing schools have more flexibility.
Utah	No	
Virginia		
Washington	No	
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		