

APPENDIX A

THE LAST NINE STATES WITHOUT CHARTER LAWS

When this book was last published, there were ten states without charter laws. In 2011, Maine became the 42nd (including DC) state to authorize a charter school law. While the law is average on paper (lack of independent authorizer, cap on number of schools and enrollment, and some operational restrictions), the real test comes when the first charter school applies and opens in the Pine Tree State. Only then will we know if funding truly does follow the child and if charter schools have enough autonomy to create a high-quality education for the children of Maine.

Every year, the remaining charter-less states try to introduce legislation, and this past year was no different. We saw charter bills introduced in Washington, Kentucky, and Alabama, but as of press time, there has been no movement on any bills, and some, like the bill in Washington, already have died. Even if one of these bills passes, what is proposed isn't strong enough and would not produce strong charter schools.

Charter laws need to be enacted in these remaining states, but they need to be the *right* type of law - one that holds charter schools accountable to independent authorizers, funds them 100 percent as conventional schools, and gives them the operational freedom to be true innovators in education.

AND THEN THERE WERE NINE...

Alabama

Kentucky

Montana

Nebraska

North Dakota

South Dakota

Vermont

Washington (state)

West Virginia