

## Cutting Across Cultures

Researchers compared countries' policies on key aspects of charter-style schooling.

Country	Education Providers	Funding Blend/ Budgetary Authority	Curriculum Control	Hiring Authority	Religious Schools Allowed	Admissions
<b>Belgium</b>	Central government Provincial government Local government Free schools (usually Roman Catholic)	Full funding for all private and public schools.  Schools that charge tuition forfeit government subsidies.	Schools free to choose texts and materials.  Ministry of Education mandates number of classes, subject areas to teach, and language of instruction.	Not specified.	Yes	No particular admissions regulation.
<b>France</b>	Private schools	Schools accept varying levels of government funding, in exchange for regulatory mandates.	Government controls curriculum and testing standards in private schools that accept central funding.	Government controls hiring in private schools that accept central funding.	Yes	No particular admissions regulation; students must attend public school in region to which they are designated.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Private schools	Full government support of private schools.	School has materials and pedagogical freedom .  Government sets national curriculum standards and number of hours required to teach in subject areas.  Government sets national exit exams for primary and secondary students.	School has hiring authority.  Schools may not hire additional teachers over their allotted number.  Schools must meet mandated student-teacher ratios.	Yes	School's board of directors has governing authority, including over admissions.
<b>New Zealand</b>	Private schools	Government provides funding for salaries and operating expenses.  Private schools maintain local budgetary control.	No mandates, but all schools teach to a national curriculum and exit exam.	Government controls hiring for private schools that accept funding.  Private schools must maintain government-mandated student-teacher ratio.	Yes	Not specified.
<b>Qatar</b>	Qatar citizens; could be part of a newly formed entity, linked to an existing private school, management organization, or any private company	Government funding; parental fees limited.	Must meet national curriculum standards in four major subjects (English, Arabic, mathematics, and science); others may be specified in individual school contract.	School has hiring authority.	Yes	Must be open to all students/families or employ a random-lottery system for admission.