- 1. States that have an interest or academic preference
  - Delaware
  - Florida
  - Louisiana
  - New Hampshire (must be related to the academic goals of the school)
  - New York (admission of students shall not be limited on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement, or aptitude)
  - North Carolina (the school shall not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude)
  - Pennsylvania (may establish reasonable criteria to evaluate prospective students math science or the arts)
  - Texas (performing art schools)
  - Wyoming (admission to a charter school shall not be determined solely on academic abilities or achievements, including minimum test scores or intelligence quotient scores)
- 2. States that have no enrollment preferences, only random drawing lotteries in the cases of over enrollment
  - Alaska
  - California (preference for conversions and students residing in the district, however other preferences may be permitted on an individual basis by chartering authority)
  - Georgia (the law allows but does not require enrollment preferences)
  - Hawaii (preference for students previously enrolled in a conversion)
  - Idaho (the law allows but does not require enrollment preferences)
  - Kansas
  - Maryland (only preference is given to children of military personnel)
  - Mississippi (not a preference, just law: only open to in district students)
  - Rhode Island (the law allows but does not require enrollment preferences)
  - Virginia
- 3. States that give preference to a smaller geographic area than a school district
  - Delaware
  - Louisiana
  - Nevada (at risk students who are within 2 miles of the charter)
  - Oklahoma (only used in "academic enterprise zones" which are at risk populations, 60% of the children qualify for free or reduced lunch)
  - Utah (articulating from one charter to another a two mile radius)
- 4. States which have lotteries and only preferences based on siblings, matriculation, children of employees and founder and in district children
  - Arizona
  - Arkansas
  - Connecticut
  - Washington DC
  - Illinois
  - Indiana

- Iowa
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- 5. States that have language allowing charter schools to deny admission if pupil has been expelled or in the process of being expelled or criminal offense
  - Arizona
  - Illinois
  - New Hampshire
  - New York
  - Texas