

# MISSISSIPPI

(Law passed in 2010; the 8th weakest of the nation's 43 charter laws)

D

In 2013, Mississippi reinstated its charter school law, which despite all the promises of well-intentioned people, has yet to yield true power for parents. One school is set to open in the fall of 2015, but the slow movement is due to the weak charter law that places lots of conditions on how schools are authorized, has a cap of 15 schools statewide and limited autonomy for charters.

## INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

APPROVAL	Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board, a newly created quasi-independent board is the sole authorizer in districts graded 'D' or 'F' for academic performance. In school districts graded 'A', 'B' or 'C', charters can only be authorized by the Board after a majority of local board members endorse or initiate an application.
APPEAL	None

## OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited. Charter schools do receive exemptions from some state rules and regulations. Virtual schools are allowed. ESP management contracts are restricted to nonprofits only and within the charter application evidence of their academic success and capacity for growth must be included.
LOCAL	Limited. Charters are considered their own local education agency (LEA) and therefore have autonomy regarding special education and some other local regulations.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers may remain covered by district collective bargaining agreement if all parties agree, may negotiate as a separate unit with the governing body, or work independently. Charter schools are prohibited from participating in the state's retirement system.

## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	Fifteen charter schools can be approved each fiscal year. There are additional enrollment restrictions by geography and demographics.
-----	---

## EQUITY

### STUDENT FUNDING

Funds pass through state and district. Local funding for charter schools is equal to the ad valorem tax receipts and in-lieu payments received for the support of the school district in which the student resides. The pro rata ad valorem receipts and in-lieu receipts include all levies for the support of the school district. The state directs the proportionate share of funds from federal and state categorical funds, special education, vocational, etc. to eligible charter schools. The state authorizer receives a three percent administrative fee from a school's annual per-pupil allocations.

“The State Department of Education shall make payments to charter schools for each student in average daily attendance at the charter school equal to the state share of the adequate education program payments for each student in average daily attendance at the school district in which the charter school is located. In calculating the local contribution for purposes of determining the state share of the adequate education program payments, the department shall deduct the pro rata local contribution of the school district in which the student resides, to be determined as provided in Section 1336 37-151-7(2)(a).” Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-28-55 (West).

### FACILITIES FUNDS

No Additional Funds.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

- 3

Three points are deducted because while the state has improved their charter law significantly, no charter school has yet to open.

[LINK TO THE MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)