

MISSISSIPPI

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



INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

APPROVAL	State Board of Education
APPEAL	None

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	No. Exemptions must be requested on a case-by-case basis and most rules cannot be exempted. Virtual schools are allowed. ESP management contracts restricted.
LOCAL	No. Ultimate control remains with district.
TEACHER FREEDOM	No. Teachers are considered employees of the school district. Teachers must participate in state's retirement system.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	Conversions only. Twelve conversions allowed in six years with geographic limitations. Only schools deemed failing for three years or conversions of low-performing schools allowed.
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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	Funds pass through district. Amount and delivery left to discretion of district, which controls schools. "In addition to receiving state funds for operations...public schools converted to conversion charter school status receive equitable state and federal funding compared to traditional public schools, as required by the federal "Race to the Top" program." [§ 37-165-25.]
FACILITIES FUNDS	No Additional Funds.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

-3	Three points are deducted because the state has imposed a restrictive cap and is not encouraging or working to improve charter environment.
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[LINK TO THE MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)