



Start a School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Mississippi

Charter Schools

The [Mississippi Charter Schools Act](#) includes a history of charter school legislation in Mississippi. There are [10](#) authorized charter schools in Mississippi.

Review the Mississippi First [website](#).

Steps to Start a Charter School

The first step in creating a charter school is to register as a corporation. This is usually a non-profit LLC. Register with your state's Division of Corporations.

If you are planning to operate as a non-profit, you will need to obtain your IRS Non-Profit status by submitting [IRS Form 1023](#).

The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board (MCSAB) is pleased to invite proposals for quality charter schools seeking to open in the 2025-2026 school year or thereafter. The MCSAB is charged with approving only quality charter school proposals that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices. - [NACSA Revisions to Application Cycle & RFP](#)

Example 2025 School Opening Milestone Timeline

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|---|-------------------|
| • Prospective Applicant Informational Webinar | February 16, 2024 |
| • Letter of Intent Packets Due to MCSAB | March 8, 2024 |
| • Eligibility Determinations | March 15, 2024 |
| • Eligible Applicant Orientation Webinar | March 22, 2024 |
| • Deadline for Complete Proposals | May 24, 2024 |
| • Initial Completeness Findings Distributed | May 31, 2024 |
| • Remedy Window for Completeness | June 3, 2024 |
| • Final Completeness Findings | June 7, 2024 |
| • Threshold Quality Review | June 10, 2024 |
| • Threshold Quality Review Findings | July 8, 2024 |
| • Applicants Response to Initial Stage 2 Evaluator Feedback | July 22, 2024 |

- Secondary Stage 2 Threshold Quality Review Begins July 26, 2024
- Final Stage 2 Findings Distributed August 16, 2024
- Complete Proposal Review Begins August 16, 2024
- Invitation to Capacity Interview September 13, 2024
- Capacity Interviews September 23, 2024
- Public Hearing – Public Comment TBD
- Post Interview Independent Evaluation Team Recommendation. October 7, 2024
- Final Applicant Response October 14, 2024
- Final Independent Evaluator Review and Recommendation October 21, 2024
- Call for Quality Schools Decisions October 28, 2024

General Information & FAQs

- [Call for Quality Schools Application ~ New Schools](#)
- [Call for Quality Schools Application ~ Existing Operators](#)
- [Letter of Intent Template](#) ~ New & Existing Schools
- Prospective Applicant [Webinar Slides](#) & [Recording](#)
- Eligible Applicant [Webinar Slides](#) & [Recording](#)
- [Capacity Interview Criteria](#)
- [D & F Rated Districts Eligible for Charter Schools - 2023 Accountability Ratings](#)
- [Letters of Intent & Eligibility Determinations](#)
- Applications Submitted & Reviewed for Completeness
- Public comment period open - comments received

Statutes and Rules

- [§ 37-28-1. Short title.](#)
- [§ 37-28-3. Legislative findings and declarations.](#)
- [§ 37-28-5. Definitions.](#)
- [§ 37-28-7. Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board created; jurisdiction; mission; composition.](#)
- [§ 37-28-9. Powers and duties of Authorizer Board; immunity from civil liability.](#)
- [§ 37-28-11. Funding for the Authorizer Board.](#)
- [§ 37-28-13. Technical information and assistance from Department of Education; publication of laws and regulations applicable to charter schools.](#)
- [§ 37-28-15. Authorizer to publicize request for proposals for charter school applications; request for proposals to prescribe mandatory elements of charter applications.](#)

- [§ 37-28-17. Purposes of charter application; approved charter application not to serve as charter contract.](#)
- [§ 37-28-19. Standards for authorizing charter school; review process.](#)
- [§ 37-28-21. Initial charter term; charter contract.](#)
- [§ 37-28-23. Charter school enrollment; lottery for selection of students if capacity is insufficient to enroll all students.](#)
- [§ 37-28-25. Charter school credits to be accepted by another public school upon transfer of student from charter school to public school.](#)
- [§ 37-28-27. School districts required to provide information about charter schools as enrollment option.](#)
- [§ 37-28-29. Charter contract to include performance framework; performance standards used to guide authorizer's charter school evaluations; annual performance targets.](#)
- [§ 37-28-31. Annual review of charter school performance and legal compliance; performance report; charter schools to be given opportunity to remedy problems.](#)
- [§ 37-28-33. Renewal, nonrenewal or revocation of charter.](#)
- [§ 37-28-35. Closure of charter; charter school closure protocol; disposition of unspent funds and assets.](#)
- [§ 37-28-37. Annual report on status of charter schools to governor and legislature.](#)
- [§ 37-28-39. Charter school and certain service providers to be nonprofit education organization; charter school to function as local educational agency.](#)
- [§ 37-28-41. Charter school powers.](#)
- [§ 37-28-43. Prohibition against discrimination; prohibition against charging tuition; transportation plan; virtual courses.](#)
- [§ 37-28-45. Applicability of statutes, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, etc. that noncharter public schools are subject to; relation to other laws.](#)
- [§ 37-28-47. Qualifications of charter school employees; applicability of Education Employment Procedures Law.](#)
- [§ 37-28-49. Criminal history record checks and fingerprinting requirements; termination of charter school employee for certain acts.](#)
- [§ 37-28-51. Charter schools eligible to participate in state- or district-sponsored athletic and academic interscholastic activities.](#)
- [§ 37-28-53. Charter schools required to certify enrollment, average daily attendance and certain additional information on annual basis.](#)

- [§ 37-28-55. Charter school funding; adequate education program payments; local funding; federal and state categorical aid program monies; state transportation funding; disbursement of Education Enhancement Funds.](#)
- [§ 37-28-57. Annual financial audit.](#)
- [§ 37-28-59. Monies remaining in charter school's accounts at end of budget year to be used during subsequent budget years; authorization to accept gifts, grants, etc.; disclosure of funds from private and foreign sources.](#)
- [§ 37-28-61. Right of first refusal to purchase vacant public school facilities; public entities authorized to provide space to charters in their facilities under preexisting zoning and land use designations.](#)

Resources

- [Accounting Manual & FETS Reporting](#)
- [Sample FETS Report Template](#)
- [Back to School Meeting](#)
- [Charter School Associations & Advocacy Groups](#)
- [Charter School Contract ~ Amendment Memo 2020](#)
- [Contract Amendment Process ~ Amendment Request Form](#)
- [Charter School Expansion Policy and Application](#)
- [Charter School Law and Policies Pamphlet](#)
- [Charter School Merger Guidance and Application](#)
- [Communities of Excellence Project: Charter School Facility Refinancing Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Related Resources](#)
- [Epicenter Reporting Calendar](#)
- [MAEP Funding and ADA Adjustments for Charter Schools](#)
- [MCSAB Newsletters](#)
- [MDE Professional Development Opportunities](#)
- [MDE Reporting Calendar](#)
- [Mississippi School Discipline Laws and Regulations](#)
- [MPB Mississippi Education Connection ~ MS Charter Schools](#)
- [Parent Complaint Procedure](#)

Governing Board Training Resources

- [Open Meetings & Public Records Ft. Tom Hood, MS Ethics Commission - Presentation Slides](#)
- [Charter Finance Ft. Jim Ford & Barb Acenowr - Presentation Slides](#)

General Resources

- [PEER Reports](#)
- [Public Records Request Form](#)

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