

Charter schools are new to Mississippi.

The charter school law passed in 2013 to give parents in low-performing school districts another public school option. Nationally, there are over 6,600 charter schools. There are 3 charter schools open in Mississippi in 2016-2017.

Charter schools must complete an extensive application process and get approved by a state board.

The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board monitors them every year to ensure they are meeting the terms of their contract, which is called a charter.

Charter schools must be successful.

Charter schools receive a grade every year, but unlike traditional schools, charter schools are evaluated every 5 years to determine if they will remain open. If a charter school has an "F" rating at the end of the 5-year contract term, it will be permanently closed by the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

Charter schools are governed by non-profits.

Unlike traditional schools, charters can make decisions without waiting on the local school board. This might mean increasing the time in a school day to provide more time for instruction based on the immediate needs of the students.

WHAT MAKES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIFFERENT?

