

MICHIGAN

(Law passed in 1993; last amended in 2011;
5th strongest of the nation's 42 charter laws)



316 charters serving 118,702 students.

37 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

Virtual schools permitted for the first time in legislation enacted in 2009, although there is an enrollment cap. The charter cap enacted in 1993 was finally lifted in legislation passed in 2011.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	School boards and state public universities, including community colleges.
APPEAL	None.

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited. Waiver requests considered on a case-by-case basis from State Board of Education. Virtual schools are permitted with enrollment restrictions. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	Yes.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers may negotiate as a separate unit with the charter school governing body, or work independently. Employees hired by a charter school board are eligible for state retirement benefits. Employees hired by for-profit management company are not.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	Yes. Cap on university authorizers: 300 in 2012, 500 in 2014, and no cap in 2015. Unlimited for charters authorized by school boards. Schools of Excellence can be created and replicated (12 have opened.) Charters already operating may convert to a School of Excellence if criteria are met. Enrollment caps on virtual schools (400 students within first year, maximum of 1,000 students per school.)
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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	<p>Funds pass from state to the authorizing body acting as fiscal agent to the charter school. State School Aid Act guarantees that the charter school receives funding in the same manner as conventional public schools. Authorizer administrative fee may be no more than three percent of a charter's state aid.</p> <p>"Beginning in 2008-2009, subject to subsection (7) and except as otherwise provided in this subsection, for pupils in membership, other than special education pupils, in a public school academy or a university school, the allocation calculated under this section is an amount per membership pupil other than special education pupils in the public school academy or university school equal to the sum of the local school operating revenue per membership pupil other than special education pupils for the district in which the public school academy or university school is located and the state portion of that district's foundation allowance, or the state maximum public school academy allocation, whichever is less." [MI Act 1979 PA 94 388.1620(4)]</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	No Additional Funds.

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