

MISSOURI

(Law passed in 1998; last amended in 2010; 11th strongest of the nation's 42 charter laws)



52 charters serving 19,573 students.

11 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	Community colleges, or a four-year public or private college or university located in Missouri with an approved teacher education program that meets regional or national standards of accreditation, or school boards in Kansas City and St. Louis.
APPEAL	Yes. Applications denied may be submitted to the State Board of Education, which has specific guidelines that limit the scope of appeals they will consider. The state board's rejection is subject to judicial review. If the state board approves the application, it will serve as the school's sponsor.

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited. Waiver from some state rules and regulations. Virtual schools are not allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted.
LOCAL	Limited in cases where schools are not LEAs.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes. Teachers may choose to remain covered by district collective bargaining agreement or may work independently. Charter school employees must participate in the retirement system of their school district.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	No cap but charters are limited to Kansas City and St. Louis.
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EQUITY

STUDENT FUNDING	<p>Funds pass through the state for LEAs and through district for others. LEA charter schools receive all funding streams and categories. Funds are now nearly comparable to conventional public schools.</p> <p>"A charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency shall receive from the department of elementary and secondary education an annual amount equal to the product of the charter school's weighted average daily attendance and the state adequacy target, multiplied by the dollar value modifier for the district, plus local tax revenues per weighted average daily attendance from the incidental and teachers funds in excess of the performance levy as defined in section 163.011, RSMo, plus all other state aid attributable to such pupils. If a charter school declares itself as a local education agency, the department of elementary and secondary education shall, upon notice of the declaration, reduce the payment made to the school district by the amount specified in this subsection and pay directly to the charter school the annual amount reduced from the school district's payment." [§ 160.415.4 R.S.Mo.]</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	No Additional Funds.

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