

MISSOURI

(Law passed in 1998; 8th strongest of the nation's 43 charter laws)



INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (3)

APPROVAL	Missouri Charter Public School Commission, a statewide independent entity; 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 may approve schools in Kansas City and St. Louis, or in unaccredited school districts. School boards are the sole authorizers in accredited districts. In a provisionally accredited district, any authorizer can sponsor a charter if it has been classified as such for three years. Chartering in districts provisionally accredited because of financial stress is decided upon by the state board of education.
APPEAL	No.

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 on charters except in districts with at least 1,550 students, no more than 35 percent of students in a district can be in charters.
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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](#)