

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FACTS

Charter Schools are FREE, PUBLIC schools.

Because charter schools are public schools, **charter schools cannot charge tuition** for your scholar to attend a charter school.

Charter schools are OPEN ADMISSION.

Charter schools are open to, and must accept, **ANY** student in the school's local school district, **regardless of ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, or academic or athletic ability.** Charter schools cannot require tests or other prerequisites for admission into a Mississippi public charter school, aside from requiring the student to be in an eligible grade and to reside in an eligible district.

Charter schools use a FAIR method to determine admission—a lottery—when a charter school has more interested students than capacity.

Many of Mississippi's charter schools have a waiting list due to more families wanting their scholars enrolled than seats available. When this happens, Mississippi charter schools must use a lottery to select students for admission, as this is **the fairest method for choosing among applicants.** The lottery is a random draw of scholars from the waiting list to determine who will fill the available seats. When there is no waiting list, all students who apply are admitted if they are in an eligible grade and reside in an eligible district.

Charter schools are held ACCOUNTABLE by the state of Mississippi.

Though charter schools have more curricular autonomy than traditional public schools, they **are still required to administer the same state tests and receive the same state accountable grades as traditional public schools.** Additionally, Mississippi charter schools must go through a renewal process at least every five years to remain open. During renewal, they are evaluated based on their students' academic success, the school's financial stewardship, and the school's compliance with federal and state regulations.

Charter schools CONSTITUTIONALLY receive state, local, and federal funds like a traditional public school.

Tax dollars fund charter schools just as they do traditional public schools. Should a scholar leave their traditional public school to attend a charter school, **the scholar's per-pupil funding will follow them to the charter school, just as it would to any traditional school district in Mississippi.**