

**Both are FREE public schools open to any Mississippi student.**

The 2016-2017 charter schools are Midtown Public Charter School, Reimagine Prep, and Smilow Prep. They are available to students in Jackson and C, D, and F districts.

**Both receive a grade from the Mississippi State Board of Education.**

Charter schools use the same state standards and the same state tests to track performance. They are both graded on the same A-F scale.

**Both CANNOT discriminate.**

A charter school must accept any student who is in the appropriate grade level as long as there is space. In addition, the student population of a charter school must reflect the student population of the district where it is located in terms of poverty and special education rates.

**Both receive local, state, and federal money.**

Each traditional and charter school in Mississippi receives a set amount of money for each child they serve.

## WHAT MAKES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# SIMILAR?



### **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?**

