

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD**

NOTICE is hereby given of a meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to be held on Monday, April 6th, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the IHL Board Room at the Universities Center located at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi. Participation at this meeting may be by teleconference at locations different from the above location pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §25-41-5(2013) with participation being available to the public at the location set forth above. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the regular business of the board as set forth in the attached draft agenda.

This the 27th day of March, 2015.

BY: Tommy Cardin
Tommy Cardin
Chair

DRAFT AGENDA
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
April 6th, 2015

- I. Call to order
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes of the March 2nd meeting
- IV. Chair Report
 - a. Legal Counsel
- V. Executive Director's Report
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Applications Committee
 - b. Performance and Accountability Committee
- VII. New Business
 - a. Approval of Invoices
 - b. 2015 Request for Proposals Release
 - c. NACSA Third Party Evaluation Proposal
 - d. Mississippi Charter School Contract
 - e. Strategic Plan: Discussion and Possible Action
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Next Meeting
 - a. June 1, 2015
- X. Adjourn

Mission

The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board will increase access to excellent public schools by authorizing high-quality, charter schools especially schools designed to serve our state's underserved students.

Values

Commitment to Excellence

Commit to excellence in all authorizing activities, with a focus on nationally-established best practices.

Customer Service

Provide responsive, solutions-oriented customer service to all stakeholders.

Focus on Outcomes

Focus on holding charter school organizations responsible for academic, financial, and organizational outcomes while reducing bureaucratic burden.

Partnership

Build partnerships among the Authorizer Board and a variety of organizations including the Mississippi Department of Education, charter school organizations, traditional school districts, and Mississippi's colleges and universities.

Transparency

Promote transparency among the Authorizer Board, charter school organizations, and the public.

Strategic Priorities for 2015 - 2016

- I. Expand high-quality charter options across the state of Mississippi especially in areas of high need.
- II. Ensure the quality of authorized charter schools through outcomes-based accountability and oversight practices while respecting charter school autonomy.
- III. Establish sound organizational practices and protocols to ensure effective and transparent operation of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

Strategic Priorities Outline

I. Expand high-quality charter options across the state of Mississippi especially in areas of high need.

- A. **Objective: Establish the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board as a national leader in charter school authorizing with a balanced mix of high-quality national and local operators.**
 - a. Authorize additional charter schools by the end of 2016.
 - b. Identify and recruit high-quality national and local charter school operators to launch schools in future Request for Proposal cycles.
 - c. Identify two local school districts interested in charter school conversions.
 - d. Increase charter school awareness through targeted outreach activities to Mississippi communities, local school districts, and other education and business stakeholders.

- B. **Objective: Streamline the Request for Proposals process to increase accessibility and maximize transparency.**
 - a. Streamline the RFP process by establishing an annual RFP timeline with two distinct application tracks for new and experienced operators.
 - b. Create an applicant toolbox that includes a variety of resources (e.g., a statewide needs analysis, an operator pitch book, and MCSAB policies).
 - c. Partner with local nonprofit organizations and universities to establish: 1) technical support during the RFP process; and 2) leadership development/application creation pipelines.
 - d. Partner with local non-profit organizations to recruit a national charter school leadership development organization to Mississippi.

Strategic Priorities Outline

II. Ensure the quality of authorized charter schools through outcomes-based accountability and oversight practices while respecting charter school autonomy.

A. Objective: Establish the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board as a national leader in charter school accountability and oversight practices.

- a. Develop a standardized performance framework and charter contract.
- b. Create an intervention ladder to address and resolve contract violations with charter school operators and establish a revocation protocol if violations are not addressed.
- c. Develop an implementation plan for a charter school performance data tracking system in order to store and capture all charter school academic, financial and organizational performance data.
- d. Establish clear expectations with charter school boards and school leaders through routine operator meetings and visits to charter school board meetings.

B. Objective: Develop a partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education to ensure charter schools have access to all necessary information and training.

- a. Establish a streamlined pre-opening process with training and information sessions for authorized charter schools with MDE.
- b. Create a communication protocol that transmits essential information from MDE and outside stakeholders to charter school leaders.

Strategic Priorities Outline

III. Establish sound organizational practices and protocols to ensure effective and transparent operation of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

A. Objective: Establish fiscally-sound board practices with a focus on agency sustainability.

- a. Establish a standing committee structure outlined in the Board's bylaws and set a routine calendar of meetings that aligns to programmatic timelines.
- b. Commit to ongoing professional development on national charter authorization and high-quality charter school best practices by attending conferences, school visits, and other trainings.
- c. Secure funding, including grants and philanthropic support, to develop strong authorizing practices and attract high-quality local and national operators.
- d. Examine the Board's budget and current contractual obligations to ensure the budget aligns to the Board's strategic priorities.

B. Objective: Utilize various forms of communication to promote transparency among the Authorizer Board, charter school operators, and the public.

- a. Revise its website to further increase transparency with charter school operators and the public.
- b. Create a user-friendly annual report provided to the public and the Mississippi Legislature.
- c. Create an electronic pamphlet with detailed information of the laws and policies applicable to charter schools in Mississippi for the public and prospective applicants.