



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 28, 2017

CONTACT: Marian Schutte, charterschools@mississippi.edu

**MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD AWARDED \$15 MILLION DOLLARS
TO SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOL GROWTH STATEWIDE**

Jackson, MS. – The U.S. Department of Education on Thursday announced the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board (MCSAB) as one of nine state entities selected to receive an FY17 Charter Schools Program state entities grant. The MCSAB will receive a total of \$15,000,000 over five years to expand the reach and impact of Mississippi's charter school sector while maintaining a high focus on charter school quality.

Through the FY17 Charter Schools Program grant, Mississippi proposes to: 1) increase the number of new, high-quality charter schools launching in Mississippi by at least 375% over the next five years and create 15,000 new high-quality charter school seats; 2) support all charter schools in earning an 'A' or 'B' letter grade on Mississippi's statewide accountability system or significantly improving their letter grade by at least two letter grades; and 3) advance the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board's standing as a national leader in charter school authorizing quality.

"We are thrilled to be one of nine state entities to receive this award as well as have the opportunity to expand access to excellent public charter schools for families and students across Mississippi. Charter Schools Program grant funding will serve as a tremendous stimulus to Mississippi's nascent charter school sector," said Marian Schutte, Executive Director of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board. Ninety percent of grant funds will be for charter school startup subgrants to defray the significant costs of opening new charter schools. Additionally, the MCSAB will invest Charter Schools Program grant funds in operator recruitment, technical assistance to applicants and approved charter schools, and technical assistance for the MCSAB to further enhance authorizer quality.

To achieve these lofty goals, the MCSAB plans to partner with Mississippi First, a local education policy non-profit organization, and to continue its partnership with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. These partners will add to MCSAB's nationally recognized authorizing practices and further leverage funds to grow the Mississippi charter school sector.

To read the press release announcing the awards, [click here](#).

For more information on the Charter Schools Program state entities grant, [click here](#).

###