

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2018

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CSI Schools Outperform in Postsecondary Outcomes and Show Improvement in English Language Development

DENVER, CO (August 17, 2018) – Charter schools authorized by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) demonstrated strong performance on the PSAT and SAT postsecondary assessments administered last school year. And, similar to statewide performance, CSI schools had mixed results on the CMAS assessments. Executive Director of CSI, Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, shares: “We are pleased to see the gains made across CSI high schools and are focused on strategies to make assessment data more accessible and useful for schools’ improvement planning efforts.”

Postsecondary Performance

CSI’s portfolio ranked 46th out of the 135 districts with reportable data on the PSAT 8/9. Notably, [Thomas MacLaren School](#) ninth graders earned a score placing them in the top 2% of schools in the state. CSI’s portfolio ranked 42nd out of the 131 districts with reportable data on the PSAT 10. CSI 10th graders scored an average of 494 on evidence-based reading and writing compared the state average of 479. In math, CSI 10th-graders scored an average of 474 compared to the state average of 465. Three CSI schools earned scores in the top 5% of schools in the state, Thomas MacLaren School, [Colorado Early Colleges – Parker](#), and [Colorado Early College – Fort Collins](#), with Thomas MacLaren School earning the third highest PSAT score in the state.

CSI 11th graders scored in the top 20% of the state on the SAT, ranking 28th out of the 139 districts with reportable data. CSI’s portfolio scored an average of 527 in evidence-based reading and writing compared to the state average of 513 and scored an average of 506 on math compared to the state average of 501. Notably, four CSI schools (Thomas MacLaren School, Colorado Early Colleges – Parker, Colorado Early Colleges – Fort Collins, and [Colorado Springs Early Colleges](#)) earned SAT scores placing them in the top 50 schools in the state with Thomas MacLaren School tying with The Vanguard School for the 5th highest score in the state and Colorado Early Colleges – Parker earning a spot in the top 5% of schools.

CSI Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Ryan Marks, shared: “With the addition of the PSAT 8/9 this past year, we now have an aligned set of assessments at the high school level. Strong PSAT/SAT performance coupled with the large increase in graduation rate suggest that CSI schools continue to produce positive outcomes for high school students.” This past year, CSI saw a 10 percentage point increase in its graduation rate and a reduction in its dropout rate.

English Language Development

CSI schools also excelled in their service to English Language Learners, which make up a quarter of CSI students. Earlier this summer, ACCESS for ELLs assessment results were released, highlighting school and district performance of English Learners on English language development. Notable schools include [Victory Preparatory Academy Middle School](#) (ACCESS MGP=71), [Colorado Early College – Aurora](#) (ACCESS MGP=56) and [Ricardo Flores Magon Academy](#) (ACCESS MGP=64). In all cases, the CSI schools produced English language proficiency growth that exceeded their respective geographic districts.

An Ongoing Focus on Understanding Data and Improvement Planning

Overall, CSI schools saw slight dips in CMAS Math and CMAS English Language Arts achievement from the prior year. CSI Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Ryan Marks, shared: “While downward movement is disappointing, we are focused on ways to support our schools in making use of this data to drive intentional improvement planning.”

This past year, CSI staff has created more opportunities for school leadership and board members to receive training on interpreting state and interim assessment data. “As an authorizer, we hold our schools accountable for outcomes and provide them flexibility to determine the methods and models to drive school improvement. Data analysis training has been a great way to support our schools without telling them what specific strategies to employ,” shared Marks. CSI has also formed a School Improvement Fellowship for the 2018-19 school year where CSI school participants will engage with other Fellows and outside experts in areas of organizational leadership and systems improvement. Fellows will also receive in-depth and specialized training and support from CSI staff, including individualized coaching to develop school-level structures and processes for using data for decision-making and to implement tools for evaluating the effectiveness of programs.

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About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 39 schools from Durango to Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction to Calhan and serving over 17,500 PK-12 students. We believe that every child should have access to high performing school choices and are committed to the creation and success of high-quality charter public school options that offer diverse educational models to best meet the needs of every child. Our approach to authorizing charter schools balances autonomy and accountability. We offer our schools the flexibility to choose the educational models and methods that best meet the unique needs of their students and communities, and we hold them accountable to clear expectations for academic, financial, and organizational performance. Learn more at www.csi.state.co.us and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).