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CSI Awarded ~\$2.6 Million to Improve Charter School Authorizing Practices

DENVER, CO (October 9, 2018) – The [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) was awarded a three-year \$2.6 million [National Dissemination Grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation to improve charter school authorizing best practices. CSI was one of eight recipients to receive this particular grant, which was announced by the U.S. Department of Education on October 4th.

CSI’s project, titled the Tri-State Alliance for Improving District-Led Authorizing, seeks to improve the quality of the charter school sector by addressing the current gap in best practice resources, training, and professional development for district authorizers, with an additional emphasis on outreach to and support for small and rural district authorizers.

CSI will be partnering with charter school authorizing organizations in Florida, California, and Colorado, states which collectively include roughly 40% of the nation’s charter authorizers and nearly one third of the nation’s charter schools. This project will benefit from the district staff already committed to strengthening authorizing in each of these state’s associations.

“CSI is called out in statute to serve as a model authorizer and to assist districts in implementing authorizing best practices, and this grant will allow us to do just that with greater reach and impact,” shares Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, Executive Director of CSI.

Included in project outcomes is the development of best practice resources for serving disadvantaged students, students with special needs, and English language learners. “CSI’s statutory mission is to foster high-quality charter schools, with a particular focus on those serving at-risk students. This is an organizational priority for us—a priority that led us to partner with national special education experts two years ago, and a priority that led us to offer additional supports to schools on access and equity for the past two years. I see this grant as the natural continuation and expansion of this work that is at the heart of our mission,” shared Dr. Croy Lewis.

As best practice resources are developed and authorizer meetings are scheduled through the grant term, they will be accessible to the public on CSI’s website.

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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](#).