

**For Immediate Release**

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## **CSI Board Renews Contracts of 8 Schools**

DENVER, CO (December 12, 2018) – The [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors voted unanimously yesterday to renew the contracts of the eight CSI schools that had contracts ending in June 2019. The length and terms of the renewals varied based on each school's academic, financial, and organizational performance over the last contract term.

[Charter renewal](#) is not automatic – it must be earned through strong academic results, financial viability, and operational effectiveness. Charter schools are built around the promise of greater autonomy in exchange for greater accountability, and the renewal process provides an opportunity to review the charter school's prior performance. A strong renewal process is critical to protect charter school autonomy, student rights, and the public interest, and ensures that schools are held to high standards.

### **CSI's Annual Evaluation Process**

CSI uses the [CSI Annual Review of Schools \(CARS\)](#) system to annually evaluate and accredit schools based on the CSI Academic, Financial, and Organizational Performance Frameworks. This annual evaluation serves as the main body of evidence for renewal. In addition to reviewing each school's CARS Report which includes academic, financial, and organizational performance data, CSI staff visited schools to observe and engage with school staff and leadership, and attended school board meetings to engage with school board members. Schools had the opportunity to present additional evidence about their performance and engage with the CSI Board's Performance Management Committee over the last few months.

### **Improvements to the Renewal Process**

CSI's 2018 renewal process included some improvements. Ryan Marks, Director of Evaluation and Assessment noted, "The timeline was extended to provide additional opportunity to work with the local school boards and create alignment in processes in order to minimize the additional requirements associated with renewal." Jess Welch, CSI's Assessment and Improvement Planning Specialist explains: "By aligning the renewal timeline with the timeline for submitting UIPs, we have eliminated the burden of submitting a separate academic narrative for renewal purposes. Moving up the UIP timeline has allowed schools to capture their improvement planning work as it happens, rather than months after the fact. By utilizing the UIP as the guidance document for renewal site visits, the CSI team also has an opportunity to engage with schools as they work through the implementation of the improvement plans."

The CSI Board considered each school's performance as summarized in the staff recommendation when making renewal decisions and voted on the contract terms outlined below. The boards of each of these schools will be working with CSI to execute their charter contracts in the coming weeks:

#### **The Academy of Charter Schools**

Location: Westminster  
Model: College Prep  
CARS Rating: Performance  
Renewal: 5 year contract

#### **Colorado Early Colleges – Parker**

Location: Parker  
Model: Early Colleges  
CARS Rating: Performance with Distinction  
Renewal: 5 year contract

**Thomas MacLaren Charter School**

Location: Colorado Springs  
Model: Classical  
CARS Rating: Performance with Distinction  
Renewal: 5 year contract

**Launch High School**

Location: Colorado Springs  
Model: Blended learning/entrepreneurship  
CARS Rating: Performance  
Renewal: 3 year contract + 2 performance milestone

**Mountain Village Montessori Charter School**

Location: Steamboat Springs  
Model: Montessori  
CARS Rating: Improvement  
Renewal: 2 year contract

**Early College of Arvada**

Location: Arvada  
Model: Early Colleges  
CARS Rating: Priority Improvement due to Financial Noncompliance  
Renewal: 2 year contract

**Montessori del Mundo**

Location: Aurora  
Model: Montessori  
CARS Rating: Priority Improvement  
Renewal: 2 year contract + 2 performance milestone

**Indian Peaks Charter School**

Location: Granby  
Model: Core Knowledge  
CARS Rating: Performance  
Renewal: 2 year contract + 2 performance milestone

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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 18,000 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](http://www.csi.state.co.us) and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*