

For Immediate Release

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CSI Schools Earn ‘Performance with Distinction’ Rating

DENVER, CO (December 13, 2018) – Six [Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) schools were recently accredited with the rating of ‘Performance with Distinction’ by the CSI Board of Directors. This special designation is saved for CSI schools performing in the top quarter of the state based on 2017-2018 academic performance.

CSI’s rating scale mirrors the ratings issued by the state (Turnaround, Priority Improvement, Improvement, and Performance). However, CSI’s rating scale breaks down the ‘Performance’ rating to include a ‘Performance with Distinction’ rating that allows further differentiation of school performance since 68% of all public schools in the state earned a Performance rating this year, according to the [Colorado Department of Education](http://www.cde.state.co.us). CSI schools receive the ‘Performance with Distinction’ rating if they are in the top 25% of schools in the state academically and are performing well financially and operationally. CSI schools earning this distinction rating include:

Colorado Early Colleges Network

[The Colorado Early Colleges \(CEC\) Network](#) – created by former Senator Keith King – provides students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to start working on college-level courses as soon as they are college ready, allowing students to earn a combination of high school and college credits as they pursue a high school diploma and an Associate degree or higher. Starting with one school in Colorado Springs, the network has now grown to four schools across the state: CEC-Fort Collins, CEC-Parker, Colorado Springs Early Colleges and CEC-Aurora.

Colorado Springs Early Colleges – Colorado Springs, Colorado

[Colorado Springs Early Colleges \(CSEC\)](#)

Based on its 2017-2018 performance, CSEC ranked in the 79th percentile among Colorado schools.

Colorado Early Colleges – Fort Collins – Fort Collins, Colorado

[Colorado Early Colleges-Fort Collins](#)

Based on its 2017-2018 performance, CEC-Fort Collins ranked in the 86th percentile among Colorado schools.

Colorado Early Colleges – Parker – Parker, Colorado

[Colorado Early Colleges – Parker](#)

Based on its 2017-2018 performance, CEC-Parker ranked in the 97th percentile among Colorado schools.

Thomas MacLaren State Charter School – Colorado Springs, Colorado

[Thomas MacLaren School](#) is a classical school in Colorado Springs which recently expanded to serve grades K-12. Features that make this school unique include its single-gender classrooms, focus on primary source texts as opposed to textbooks, and a performance-based program that includes participation in the school-wide orchestra program. Based on its 2017-2018 performance, Thomas MacLaren State Charter School ranked in the 95th percentile among Colorado schools.

Victory Preparatory Academy Middle – Commerce City, Colorado

[Victory Preparatory Academy](#) serves middle and high school students in Commerce City and is an expansion of a successful elementary program, Community Leadership Academy. Based on its 2017-2018 performance, Victory Preparatory Academy Middle School ranked in the 94th percentile among Colorado schools.

Golden View Classical Academy – Golden, Colorado

[Golden View Classical Academy](#) transferred into the CSI portfolio this year and serves grades K-12 with a rigorous classical curriculum. Based on its 2017-18 performance, Golden View ranked in the 88th percentile among Colorado schools.

The CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Accreditation System

In addition to recognizing CSI's six schools with Distinction ratings, the CSI Board of Directors approved the ratings of all CSI schools at its December 11th board meeting. The accreditation ratings are based on the [CSI Annual Review of Schools](#) (CARS) accreditation system, by which CSI schools are annually evaluated. CARS incorporates all measures included in the state's school performance framework—including academic achievement, academic growth, and postsecondary and workforce readiness. In addition, CSI's evaluation system includes additional measures of academic performance and considers a school's financial and organizational performance.

CSI Performance and Accountability Analyst Aislinn Walsh explains how CSI supports its schools in understanding and utilizing the data, "CSI has committed to regularly attending school board meetings and providing our school boards and school leaders with more information on the CARS Report, their school performance, and the supports CSI offers around governance, improvement planning, and data analysis. By establishing, maintaining, and enforcing high performance standards for all CSI schools, CSI works to ensure each school is providing a quality education to the students in its care."

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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](#).