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## **CSI Portfolio Sees Improvements in Performance of English Learners and Special Education Students**

DENVER, CO (August 16, 2019) – The portfolio of charter schools overseen by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) continues to make gains on state assessments as demonstrated by the assessment results recently released by the state.

Students attending CSI schools made modest gains in English Language Arts, Math, and Science, increasing the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the state expectations across all three subject areas. The CSI portfolio outperformed the state in English Language Arts and Science and was on par with the state's performance in Math.

More impressive, though, were the gains several CSI schools made with English Learners and special education students. As Executive Director of the Charter School Institute, Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, shares of the subgroup performance: "This is extremely exciting to see. We have placed a greater emphasis on access and equity over the last few years, and I believe we're starting to see the results of these efforts coupled with the unrelenting commitment and hard work of our schools in ensuring they are providing high-quality educational options for all students. There's more to do, but these results are promising."

### **Positive Outcomes for English Learners**

CSI serves a higher percentage of English Learners (17%) than the state average of 14%, and assessment data from this past school year highlighted some positive outcomes. Specifically, some of the state's highest achievement for English Learners on the CMAS ELA assessment came from CSI schools: [Community Leadership Academy](#) (18<sup>th</sup> highest), [The Academy of Charter Schools](#) (26<sup>th</sup> highest), and [Victory Preparatory Academy](#) (27<sup>th</sup> highest).

CSI schools not only demonstrated positive achievement for English Learners as a whole, they performed very well in serving Non-English Proficient (NEP) students.

Notably, **CSI schools produced the highest performance of Non-English Proficient (NEP) students in the entire state.** And, a few CSI schools showed some of the highest performance in the state with their NEP students. [Ricardo Flores Magon Academy](#), a K-8 school where 58.5% of the student body is English Learners, was 14<sup>th</sup> in the state for NEP student performance. [Montessori del Mundo](#), a dual-language Montessori school in Aurora where 50.7% of the student body is English Learners, was 21<sup>st</sup> in the state for its NEP student performance.

Growth improved on the CMAS ELA for English Learners this past year, too. While portfolio-wide, CSI saw a modest improvement in growth for English Learners on the CMAS ELA, a few CSI schools demonstrated high growth. Of the 580 schools across the state with reportable data, Community Leadership Academy earned the 37<sup>th</sup> highest growth score and [Global Village Academy Northglenn](#) earned the 38<sup>th</sup> highest growth score for English Learners on the CMAS ELA assessment.

Several CSI schools also demonstrated high growth for English Learners on the annual English language proficiency assessment known as the ACCESS test. [The Early College of Arvada](#) and The Academy of

Charter Schools each earned a Median Growth Percentile (MGP) of 73. [Stone Creek Charter School](#) earned a MGP of 68.

Postsecondary performance also improved this year: English Learners across CSI schools saw a 3% improvement on the graduation rate based on data released by the state earlier this year.

CSI Assessment and Improvement Planning Specialist, Jessica Welch, who oversees English Learner identification, programming, and assessment, shares: “We are excited to see some tangible evidence of the incredible work our schools are doing in serving Colorado’s culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students. Over the past year, we have increased the support and oversight we provide to our schools in their work with these students and families. This year, we’re expanding our support to include regional trainings around the state on inclusive and supportive practices for CLD students, and have introduced an EL Coordinator Cohort. Participants in this cohort will meet regularly to learn from experts in the field of CLD education.”

### **Positive Outcomes in Special Education**

In addition to a strong focus on culturally and linguistically diverse education, CSI has continued its emphasis on training and supports that improve outcomes for special education students.

CSI’s enrollment of students with special needs, while not yet reflective of the state average, continues to increase each year. And, assessment data demonstrates that several CSI schools are making positive gains in serving students with special needs.

Portfolio-wide, CSI saw a notable increase in its Median Growth Percentile of special education students on the CMAS ELA—from 38 MGP in 2017-2018 to 44.5 MGP this past school year. [High Point Academy](#), a K-8 school in Aurora, was 31<sup>st</sup> of the nearly 500 schools in the state with reportable data, and Global Village Academy Northglenn, a K-8 language immersion school, was 53<sup>rd</sup> for the growth of special education students on the CMAS ELA assessment.

Additionally, students with IEPs saw a 2% reduction in the dropout rate and a 4% improvement in the best-of graduation rate based on data released by CDE earlier this year.

CSI Director of Student Services, Clare Vickland, shares: “Access and equity for all students, including students with disabilities, is a priority for CSI and I am proud to see that the recent increased focus and additional resources in this area are producing encouraging results. We continue to support our schools in serving an increased numbers of students with disabilities to ensure that all families can benefit from school choice.” This past year, CSI has expanded its special education initiatives by working collaboratively with schools to increase financial resources for serving students with special needs as well as to expand capacity-building strategies for special education staff.

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### **About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)**

*CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 40 schools from Durango to Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction to Colorado Springs and serving over 18,000 PK-12 students. As a charter authorizer, CSI focuses on the outputs—that is, the quantitative evaluation of academic, organizational, and financial school performance—providing schools the flexibility to focus on and make decisions about inputs like instructional strategies, educational programming, internal assessment system, facility selection, and staffing. The focus on outcomes rather than processes allows CSI to be neutral on educational model and maintain a diverse portfolio of school models, which include Classical, Early College, Alternative, and Montessori models. Learn more at [www.csi.state.co.us](http://www.csi.state.co.us) or read our [Media Kit](#), and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*