

**For Immediate Release**

**August 15, 2019**

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## **Improvements in Postsecondary Performance for Charter School Institute Portfolio**

DENVER, CO (August 15, 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 postsecondary outcomes as demonstrated by the assessment results recently released by the state this week and by graduation and dropout data released by the state earlier this year.

### **CSI Charters Continue Strong Performance on Postsecondary Readiness Assessments**

Charter schools earned most of the state's top scores on the postsecondary readiness assessments as results from the 2018-2019 assessments demonstrate.

While the state saw a dip in SAT performance from the prior year, CSI schools saw an increase in performance. Similar to the state, CSI schools saw an increase in performance for the PSAT 9 and slight decrease in the PSAT 10.

Notably, two charter schools authorized by the Charter School Institute earned some of the state's highest ratings across all three postsecondary assessments:

[Thomas MacLaren School](#) earned the 5<sup>th</sup> highest SAT score in the state and the highest SAT score in Colorado Springs. The K-12 school also earned the 10<sup>th</sup> highest PSAT 10 score and 6<sup>th</sup> highest PSAT 9 score in the state. Thomas MacLaren School is a classical K-12 charter school serving over 800 students in Colorado Springs. The school offers single-gender classrooms, a focus on primary source texts as opposed to textbooks, and a performance-based program that includes participation in the school-wide orchestra program.

[Colorado Early Colleges – Douglas County](#) earned the 25<sup>th</sup> highest SAT score in the state and the highest SAT score in Douglas County. This Colorado Early Colleges campus also earned the 15<sup>th</sup> highest PSAT 10 score and 17<sup>th</sup> PSAT 9 score in the state. Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County is part of the Colorado Early Colleges Network, which provides students 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.

### **CSI Portfolio Dropout and Graduation Rates Continue to Improve**

In addition to the strong performance on postsecondary assessments, CSI's portfolio continues to improve its dropout and graduation rates. Data released this past January on dropout rates shows improvement portfolio-wide and for special populations. Improvements were seen across CSI's English Learners (3.2% improvement), students with IEPs (2.6% improvement), and economically disadvantaged students (1.4% improvement). Additionally, CSI's best-of graduation rate saw 4% improvement from the prior year with noted improvements for students with IEPs (4% improvement) and economically disadvantaged students (nearly 4% improvement).

CSI Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Ryan Marks, shares: “The high schools in our portfolio strive to prepare their students for future success, and given the diverse models we see across the portfolio – from Early Colleges to Alternative Education Campuses – we are encouraged by the success demonstrated by our schools across the postsecondary readiness measures.”

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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](#).*