

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Indian Peaks Charter School in Granby to Close**

DENVER, CO (August 15, 2019) – [Indian Peaks Charter School](#) leadership has decided to close its doors after nearly twenty years of serving as an educational choice for the Grand County community.

Indian Peaks Charter School opened its doors in 2000 in Granby, Colorado offering a Core Knowledge model that “develops exemplary and aware young citizens with academic excellence, virtuous character, and a passion for learning.” The school transferred from East Grand School District to the Charter School Institute in 2016.

Over the past five years, the school served between 20 and 30 students each year. The school was serving 18 students in 2018 and was anticipating fewer students for the 2019-2020 school year. While its small numbers allowed for personalized learning and a close-knit community that the school was known for, it also led to extremely tight financials.

Acknowledging the impact of lower enrollment to the school’s ongoing viability, the [Colorado Charter School Institute](#) established a contract milestone requiring an enrollment minimum to be met for continued operations in the 2019-2020 school year.

Indian Peaks’ school leader, Michelle Kennard, in collaboration with the school’s board of directors, made the decision to close following the school’s low enrollment.

The school is actively supporting families as they transition to a new school for the 2019-2020 school year. In a letter to families, Kennard shared: “Our primary concern are the children in this school and their families. Mr. Reeves, Superintendent of East Grand School District, has pledged to welcome and transition our students to ensure their success.”

School leadership is working closely with the district to ensure students are enrolled in time for the start of the 2019-2020 school year—the local district’s first day of school is August 26<sup>th</sup>. The school is also working closely with the Charter School Institute to close out remaining responsibilities from the 2018-2019 school year.

While small school districts serving fewer than fifty students by law receive funding for a minimum of fifty students, CSI charter schools don’t receive access to similar funding levels if they serve fewer than fifty students - despite the fact they are funded individually just like school districts.

Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, CSI Executive Director, shared: “Operating a school is challenging work, and operating a rural school is even more challenging. This seems to be exacerbated for rural

CSI charter schools that may not have the same access as traditional public schools to public funds such as federal forest and mineral lease funds, local mill levy overrides, or local tax funds for bonds. We support Indian Peaks' decision, are grateful for the district's partnership during this transition, and will continue to explore ways to support small rural choice options in Colorado." Indian Peaks will be the second small, rural charter school in the CSI portfolio closing in a year.

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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](#).*