

For Immediate Release

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Eight CSI Charter Schools Earn Performance with Distinction Rating

Denver, CO (December 18, 2019) – Eight charter schools authorized by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) earned “Performance with Distinction” ratings for their strong performance in the 2018-2019 school year. Schools that receive this rating rank in the top 25% of all schools in Colorado with reportable academic data and have demonstrated strong financial and organizational performance as well.

“We are so proud of these schools and honored to have these schools in our portfolio,” shares CSI Executive Director Dr. Terry Croy Lewis.

Dr. Lewis continues: “These schools are located across the state, offer diverse educational models, and serve varying grades. There is clearly not one model that works for every student—these schools are providing unique and high-quality options to best meet the needs of their communities.”

Colorado Early Colleges Network

The Colorado Early Colleges Network 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. Two Colorado Early College campuses were awarded Distinction status for the 2018-2019 school year.

Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County (Parker)

[Colorado Early Colleges Parker](#) (now Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County) serves students in grades 6-12 at its Parker campus. CEC Douglas County [recently received the John Irwin Award](#) and earned the [25th highest SAT score](#) in the state and the highest score in Douglas County for the 2018-2019 school year. The school also [recently received approval to expand](#) to Inverness and Castle Rock.

Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins (Fort Collins)

[Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins](#) serves students in grades 6-12. CEC Fort Collins placed in the top 20% of schools in the state for PSAT and SAT results. 96% of students graduate within 6 years, most with either an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree.

Golden View Classical Academy (Golden)

[Golden View Classical Academy](#) (GVCA) offers a classical education to students in grades K-12 in and around the Golden community. The school outperforms the geographic district in the English Language Arts and Math state assessments in both achievement and growth scores. GVCA transferred to CSI in 2018 from Jefferson County School District.

James Irwin Charter Academy (Colorado Springs)

[James Irwin Charter Academy](#) (JICA) serves student in grades K-5 at the Howard campus, the only campus authorized by CSI. The school utilizes a direct instruction approach and Core Knowledge scope and sequence. JICA previously received the Charter School Institute's School of Distinction Award in 2015 as well as the Gazette's Best of the Springs for elementary schools in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Mountain Middle School (Durango)

[Mountain Middle School](#) offers a project-based learning education to students in grades 4-8 in Durango. The school outperformed state expectations for CMAS achievement in English Language Arts, Math, and Science, and largely meet and exceed state expectations for student growth.

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School (Steamboat Springs)

[Mountain Village Montessori](#) offers a Montessori education to students in grades K-5 and offers a tuition-based preschool. Mountain Village Montessori met state expectations for student achievement and growth on the state assessments. Notably, its schoolwide academic growth on the state's English Language Arts assessment placed it in the top 4% of schools in the state.

The Academy of Charter Schools (Westminster)

[The Academy of Charter Schools](#) serves students in grades PK-12 with a college preparatory educational model. The school outperforms the geographic district in a variety of areas, notably, English Learners on the CMAS ELA assessment [scored 26th in the state](#).

Thomas MacLaren School (Colorado Springs)

[Thomas MacLaren School](#) offers a classical education to students in grades K-12. The public charter school has consistently ranked in the top high schools in the state, recently earning the [5th highest SAT score](#) in the state and the highest SAT score in Colorado Springs. The K-12 school also earned the 10th highest PSAT 10 score and 6th highest PSAT 9 score in the state. Thomas MacLaren has been rated "Performance with Distinction" for the last several years.

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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 or read our [Media Kit](#), and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).