

For Immediate Release

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Charter School Institute to Become a School Food Authority

Denver, CO (February 25, 2020) – The [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) is on its way to administering charter school child nutrition programs beginning the 2020-2021 school year.

According to [2019 KIDS Count in Colorado!](#) report, 12% of Colorado children may not always know when or where they will get their next meal. That's where CSI hopes to expand options and services, allowing a greater number of students attending charter schools to participate in the federal child nutrition program.

As a School Food Authority, or SFA, CSI will be responsible for overseeing school nutrition programs in charter schools across the state.

Currently, nearly 75% of CSI charter schools participate in the federal child nutrition program. Most of the CSI schools that aren't participating cite a lack of local high-quality food options and facility limitations.

"We know that nutrition plays a big part in a student's health and well-being," shares Executive Director of CSI, Dr. Terry Croy Lewis. "We also know that the lack of a quality school food program can be a barrier for families. It's a barrier we are hopeful we can continue to knock down by partnering with schools."

Dr. Lewis previously served on the board of a School Food Authority and led a charter school with a focused student wellness initiative where healthy food options were a high priority.

The CSI SFA is currently establishing its team, which will be led by food services veteran Ilene Agustin. Agustin brings 20+ years of experience in nutrition services serving in both district and state leadership positions.

Beginning the 2020-2021 school year, the CSI SFA will be able to serve both CSI schools and district-authorized charter schools.

For more information, visit CSI's Nutrition webpage: <https://resources.csi.state.co.us/school-food-authority/>.

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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](#).