

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Changes in CSI's Portfolio of Charter Schools**

DENVER, CO (August 11, 2020) – Communities are preparing for a very different back-to-school season this year in light of COVID-19. As schools plan for unique reopenings, one charter school overseen by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) is set to open for the first time this fall, and others have expanded options and grade levels for the coming year.

The new school application for Visions Performing Arts College Prep (VPAC) in Aurora was approved by the CSI Board in November of 2019 for a planned opening of fall 2020, however VPAC has decided to delay opening until fall 2021.

### **Ascent Classical Academies Replicates in Northern Colorado**

[Ascent Classical Academy Northern Colorado](#), an expansion of the Ascent Classical Academies network, will initially serve grades K-6 in a temporary location in Fort Collins. The school will add additional grades in year two, eventually serving grades K-12. The Ascent Classical Academies network of schools includes [Ascent Classical Academy Douglas County](#), which recently transferred from Douglas County School District to CSI. The first day of school for Ascent Northern Colorado students is scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Colorado Early Colleges Expands Programming in Douglas County**

[Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County](#) will be adding campuses in Inverness and Castle Rock this fall. Colorado Early Colleges gives students the opportunity to take college courses while attending a tuition-free, public charter school. CEC also has campuses in Fort Collins, Aurora, and Colorado Springs.

### **Colorado Springs Schools Continue with Planned Grade Changes**

Colorado Military Academy (CMA) and Coperni 3, both located in Colorado Springs, will continue their one-grade-a-year build out with CMA offering K-11 and Coperni 3 offering K-7 for the 2020-21 school year. Colorado International Language Academy, also located in Colorado Springs, will implement its planned grade level changes—moving from a K-8 to a K-5 for the 2020-21 school year.

### **Schools Add and Adjust Homeschool Programs**

In response to the challenges posed by COVID-19, some CSI schools have opted to expand offerings to include homeschool enrichment programs. The Early College of Arvada, Golden View Classical Academy, and the Colorado Early Colleges network have received approval to offer homeschool enrichment programs for the coming year. AXIS International Academy in Fort

Collins has expanded the grade levels of its existing homeschool program to serve students in grades K-8. Mountain Song Community School in Colorado Springs is now offering online programming to students enrolled in the homeschool enrichment program.

### **Changes Amidst COVID**

On top of these updates for the school year, CSI schools have been working hard alongside their communities to set their reopening plans for the 2020-21 school year. Given the physical distance between CSI-authorized charter schools, which are located across the state, the diversity in models and grade levels, and varying COVID-19 phase levels, each CSI charter school has the autonomy to work in coordination with its local public health agency when determining learning plans for the 2020-21 school year.

Like schools across the state, CSI schools' plans vary in modes offered: from remote learning, to in-person learning, to hybrid options. CSI Executive Director Dr. Terry Croy Lewis shares, "As a statewide charter school authorizer, CSI continues to ensure our schools have access to the necessary information and resources as they determine the reopening and learning plans to best meet the needs of their students and communities." CSI schools will be submitting their 2020-21 Learning Plans to CSI two weeks before their first day of school.

With these changes to its portfolio, CSI projects that its 42 charter schools will serve over 18,000 students in the coming school year.

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

*CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 42 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) and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*