

For Immediate Release

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Press Contact

Amanda Oberg
Communications Coordinator
720-985-1481
amandaoberg@csi.state.co.us

RISE Fund Awardees Include CSI Charter Schools

Denver, CO (November 16, 2020) – The first round of RISE Fund were awarded to 13 entities, including charter schools authorized by the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI).

Governor Polis announced the [Response, Innovation, and Student Equity \(RISE\) Fund](#) in September as a mechanism to “address the learning challenges related to the economic, social, and health impacts of COVID-19”. The first round of winners [were announced](#) on November 10.

"In spite of the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, Colorado Charter School Institute schools have continued to seek innovative ways on meeting the unique needs of their school communities" said CSI Executive Director Terry Croy Lewis. "We are proud to see the way public charter schools have come together to access resources during this challenging time. The RISE funding will no doubt support their plans to create sustainable innovations that can address learning challenges."

New America School - Lowry

The Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) was awarded \$277,591 to provide targeted academic support to students at all three campuses of the New America Schools, a network of Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) that work to empower new immigrants, English language learners, and academically underserved students with the educational tools and support they need to maximize their potential. While the New America School – Lowry is authorized by CSI, the Lakewood and Thornton campuses are authorized by their geographic districts.

Each New America school will hire a Targeted Academic Support Interventionist (TAS) with these funds. These new positions will offer targeted support to 120 students disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The TAS interventionists will work with students and their parents to develop an academic intervention plan and establish regular check-ins. Potential interventions of the plans include tutoring, online credit recovery programs, and exploration of alternative paths to graduation.

New America Schools Superintendent Dan McMinimee shared: "We are honored to be selected and excited to accept this significant infusion of resources onto our program. The RISE grant will allow us to double down on our service to New America School students, many of whom have been negatively impacted by the myriad effects of COVID-19. We are thankful for the Governor for creating this opportunity and for CSI for partnering with us to make this grant a reality for all three of our school communities."

Coperni 2 and 3

The Third Future Schools Network were awarded \$723,000 to reimagine school by advancing a “one classroom, three locations” instructional model and providing credit to students for experiences, not just academic learning.

The network includes the Academy of Advanced Learning authorized by Aurora Public Schools and Coperni 2 and Coperni 3 authorized by CSI.

Mike Miles, CEO of the Third Future Network, shared: "The RISE funding supports our efforts to truly reimagine how schools operate. This grant award will help us expand experiential learning and provide cultural and civic opportunities for our students. It will also allow us to narrow achievement gaps and prepare our students for a Year 2030 workplace and world even in the midst of a pandemic."

Kwiyagat Community Academy

Kwiyagat Community Academy was a recipient of the [RISE Planning & Design Support Grant](#). The Kwiyagat Community Academy charter school application [recently approved by CSI](#) proposing to open an elementary school on the Ute Mountain Ute reservation in Fall 2021.

To ensure the RISE Education Fund grant opportunity reaches a diversity of geographies across the state, Gates Family Foundation partnered with the Governor’s Office and Gary Community Investments to provide resources and design support to those interested in applying for the second RISE Education Fund deadline.

Students attending CSI charter schools do not have access to the same public resources as other public schools. Districts have access to 30 percent of additional public funding from mill levy overrides and bonds. While the CSI Mill Levy Override Equalization fund has taken small steps to remedy this inequity, this additional funding will be critical.

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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 and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).