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CSI Board Approves New School Application for Pueblo-based Multi-District Online School

Denver, CO (December 11, 2020) – During its December 11th special board meeting, the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors approved the new charter school application Pueblo School of the Arts and Sciences e-Learning Academy. The online school plans to open in Fall of 2021.

[Pueblo School of the Arts & Sciences](#) (PSAS) e-Learning Academy is planning to serve K-8 students, primarily in and around the Pueblo region.

PSAS was originally founded in 1995 and has grown into a network of charter public schools. PSAS currently has two brick and mortar campuses in Pueblo (the original Jones campus and Fulton Heights campus) and offers a Homeschool Enrichment Program in nearby Pueblo District 70.

This online option was born out of ongoing parent requests for additional programming options and the consistently high demand for the PSAS program leading to persistent student enrollment waitlists.

Mr. Efrain Tapia, PSAS Director of e-Learning, shared, “As one of Colorado's oldest charter schools and one of CSI's newest partners, the PSAS K-8 e-Learning Academy is honored to serve southern Colorado families by delivering a traditional classroom environment in an online format. PSAS believes that all children deserve the best education possible and that all children can learn. We are both enthusiastic and appreciative to bring the PSAS culture to a larger region in Colorado.”

The online school plans to convert the network's existing Paideia inspired education program into an online format. The school has had the opportunity to pilot the online format this school year as it offered families a fully online program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CSI Board approved the application on December 11th. The next step in the process is for CSI and PSAS e-Learning Academy to jointly apply for recognition as a multi-district online school to the Colorado Department of Education, which will be done in January 2021.

CSI Executive Director Dr. Terry Croy Lewis shared, “We believe PSAS will provide a necessary option for families in southern Colorado. The applicant team has demonstrated their expertise in providing a quality program, and we're excited to welcome PSAS to the CSI portfolio.”

CSI Application Process

The CSI new school application review process includes a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the written proposal, a capacity interview with the school's proposed leadership, board, and founding team, and a presentation to the CSI Board's Performance Management Committee. The review team included members of CSI staff with expertise in finance, governance, academics, and operations as well as external reviewers.

Once a contract is executed between the school's board and the CSI Board of Directors, the school's team will participate in the Year 0 process with CSI staff—a process developed to monitor and support new schools as they prepare for opening.

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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 20,000 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](#).