

For Immediate Release

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CSI Board Approves New School Application for Prospect Academy

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 conditionally approved the new charter school application for Prospect Academy.

Prospect Academy

[Prospect Academy](#) will plan to open in the Fall of 2021 in Jefferson County. As a charter public school, Prospect Academy is open to all students, and it will have a specific focus on serving students with diagnoses of autism, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and ADHD, or those who might have similar profiles or learning styles to these diagnoses.

The school is modeled after successful schools in other states and will incorporate Precision Teaching and Applied Behavioral Analysis in its programming.

The school will initially serve students in grades 5-12 and building out over time to serve K-12, providing a “safe, calm, and inclusive learning environment that educates students with learning and behavioral challenges and prepares them for a successful life from high school to college or career.”

The CSI review team recommendation report noted the strong community support demonstrated for this school option and the high capacity of the founding board.

CSI Executive Director Dr. Terry Croy Lewis shares, “We are excited to welcome Prospect Academy into the CSI portfolio of schools. Our top priority is serving all students, and Prospect Academy will give students access to a unique educational option more tailored to meet their needs.”

Safia Welty-Rupe, Prospect Academy Board Vice President, shared, “We are so excited to work with CSI to bring this kind of educational option to Colorado. As a parent of a child on the spectrum, I’ve struggled to find a school that could educate my son. I’m beyond thrilled that Prospect Academy will become an option for all families who have been searching for a positive school environment for their child.”

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](#).