

For Immediate Release

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High Point Academy Renewed by State Authorizer

Denver, CO (December 15, 2020) – High Point Academy (HPA) was renewed for a base term of three years by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors at its December 15th meeting. HPA is a Wellness School and serves PK-8 students in Aurora, Denver, and Brighton.

Charter Renewal

The charter school's authorizing body, the Charter School Institute (CSI), adjusted its renewal and accreditation processes due to COVID-19 and the state pause in accountability. CSI created baseline recommendations for renewal schools based on academic data from 2014-15 through 2018-19 and financial and organizational outcomes from the 2019-20 school year were included for consideration as well. The process included typical components such as a renewal application and school site visits, which took place virtually this fall.

High Point Academy was granted a three-year base renewal contract and was rated an "Improvement" school by the state and by CSI. If certain academic benchmarks are met, the contract will be automatically extended for an additional two years.

School Highlights

A Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

High Point Academy's work on diversity, equity, and inclusion has been a critical focus this past year especially. The school has instituted increased opportunities for family and community feedback, hosting a public panel discussion with Black parents to speak out on racial equity in education.

Instructional leaders have been attending professional development on topics such as bias awareness, anti-racism, and cultural responsiveness. Students have been given opportunities to express themselves, for example: students submitted their reflections on the Black Lives Matter movement to [Six Word Memoirs](#) and worked to raise voter awareness and civic responsibility through the #BeMyVoice and #HPAvotes [project](#).

Keri Melmed, school leader at High Point Academy, shares: "We are so proud of the work staff and students are doing for social justice. At High Point Academy, we are committed to ensuring that *all* students, regardless of race, class, ethnicity, reach their highest potential. We know that in order to achieve this, we must start with ourselves and become aware of ways our bias is showing up in our relationships and in our classrooms. Only then will we be able to create the safe and caring classroom environments where all kids thrive."

Sports Field – Coming Soon

In 2015, High Point Academy along with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation received a grant from the National Football League to build a sports field to enhance space for school sports, athletic programs, and physical education classes. The grant came to fruition this fall when the

field was completed. A ribbon cutting ceremony with the Denver Broncos will take place when COVID-19 conditions allows.

9 News Cool School

In November, High Point Academy was chosen by 9 News as [Cool School of the Month](#). The school was recognized by the news network for the extraordinary efforts to partner and support students and families through the coronavirus pandemic.

Enrolling Now

As a charter public school, High Point Academy is open to all students in grades PreK-8. High Point Academy is enrolling for the 2021-2022 academic year and its enrollment lottery is scheduled for the second Monday in February. Please visit the school's website to learn more: www.highpointacademy.net.

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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](#).