

# Launch High School - Extended FAQs

***How and when did this happen?***

The small size of Launch High School was one of its more attractive aspects. It allowed your children the space and safety to find and be themselves. Of course, the small size contributed to our financial issues. After enrollment increases of 100% and 30% in years 2 and 3, we experienced an enrollment drop in in year 4. The enrollment drop in year 4 was expected, but the program itself flourished and we charted a course forward. A second drop in year 5 and a COVID-influenced education landscape called our long-term viability into question.

As with entrepreneurs we saw the disruption of the pandemic in March of this year as a potential positive. Our exceptional remote program and small class sizes would be attractive elements for a healthy enrollment rebound. Additionally, we planned for homeschool and online programs to complement our in-person option and further increase enrollment. However, instead of COVID being a tailwind for our enrollment rebound, it became a headwind - as it did for most charters and traditional schools this year. The second enrollment dip, lower per pupil funding from the state and COVID-diminished outside funding interest all contributed to the serious concern for our long-term viability and, ultimately to the decision to suspend operations.

***What happens next?***

Students will continue to attend classes chiefly in the remote learning environment. However, teachers and staff have taken it upon themselves to more fully develop their remote learning models to ensure elevated engagement and social-emotional well-being in this format. Additionally, for the 2nd semester we are scheduling in-person hybrid days on Fridays for 9th graders and, for mitigation purposes, separately for 10th graders. We are also planning for some outdoor social events as weather and safety elements allow.

As previously planned statewide assessments (CMAS & P/SAT) will be administered in mid-April, MAP tests administered in early May and Accuplacer administered in late February. Students that are eligible will graduate and receive their diplomas during a ceremony on Saturday, May 15, 2021. Hopefully it will be a group celebration in-person, but that depends on health and safety circumstances. The last day of classes for all others is still May 26, 2021.

***How do we find and enroll in a new school?***

Open Enrollment typically occurs from January thru March. You’ll want to begin scouting out some candidate schools and performing some research. Launch and CSI will hold an information session to walk you through the basic process of finding your next school , answer any questions you may have and provide information on schools you may want to consider.

When you decide on a school, their administration will have you complete a “Request for Records” form and send it to us. Launch will then transfer those records to your new school. You can also request records yourself directly from Launch High School. Launch has never had an issue with the transfer of our credits to other schools and we do not expect one to occur in this transition process. As your Head of School I’m happy to share what knowledge I have about area schools, but will not offer an opinion or recommendation for any particular school.

***Where can I find more information or ask specific questions that may arise?***

You will soon be provided access to an online folder of all materials. You can always email the Head of School at cushpatrick@LaunchHigh.org or leave a voicemail at 719-237-5142. If you would like to contact CSI (Charter School Institute), call 303-866-3299 or email csi\_info@csi.state.co.us .

***What happens with the Launch Entrepreneurship Program and the organizational mission?***

Here are some silver linings. A local charter school is very impressed with our entrepreneurship program and mission. They enthusiastically wish to adopt the “program” and its ambitious mission of community transformation through young entrepreneurs. The “program” includes the entrepreneurship classes, the entrepreneurship culture and the Hub for Teen Entrepreneurship. The last item is our latest initiative that was in the planning stages last year and was just getting off the ground this year. For students who choose to do so, there may be an avenue (or two) to continue your entrepreneurship studies via Launch reborn.

Students and families, know that your time at Launch helped us become a great school in which students flourished. Your influence will be felt for some time to come as the mission and program continues and expands, albeit in another form.