

For Immediate Release

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Mountain Song Community School Renewed by State Authorizer

Denver, CO (December 15, 2020) – Mountain Song Community School was renewed for a base term of three years and granted a “Performance” rating by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors at its December 15th meeting.

Mountain Song offers a Waldorf educational model—only one of four public Waldorf schools in Colorado and the only one in Southern Colorado—and serves students in grades K-8 in the Colorado Springs area.

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.

Mountain Song Community School was granted a three-year base renewal contract and was rated a “Performance” school by the state and by CSI. If certain academic benchmarks are met, the contract will be automatically extended for an additional two years. Mountain Song has achieved a “Performance” rating for four years in a row. Elementary English Language Arts growth has been consistently strong.

School Highlights

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mountain Song was able to successfully translate its Waldorf model to remote and hybrid settings. Mountain Song has maintained a focus on social-emotional learning and relationship building, embracing a holistic approach to education. The school has specifically emphasized staff well-being and cultivating strong teacher-student relationships.

The school has been featured by local media for its success in [navigating virtual learning](#) during the pandemic. leeda Banach, teacher at Mountain Song, shared that the school teaches the “whole student, heart, head, and hands, inspiring them to become lifelong learners.”

Mountain Song hosted a [virtual craft fair](#) recently, just one of many community events regularly put on by the school.

“We are very delighted with this news and appreciate the high accountability standards CSI holds us to as a public school of choice,” noted Dr. Teresa Woods, principal at Mountain Song. “This renewal allows us to continue serving students and families who thrive in our holistic approach.”

As a charter public school, Mountain Song Community School is open to all students. Mountain Song is enrolling for the 2021-2022 academic year and its enrollment lottery is scheduled for February 9, 2021. Please visit the school’s website to learn more: www.mountainsongschool.com.

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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, Waldorf, and Montessori models. Learn more at www.csi.state.co.us and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).