

For Immediate Release

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Nine CSI Charter Schools Earn Performance with Distinction Rating

Denver, CO (December 15, 2020) – Nine charter schools authorized by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) earned “Performance with Distinction” ratings for the 2019-2020 school year. Schools that receive this rating rank in the top 25% of all schools in Colorado with reportable academic data and have demonstrated strong financial and organizational performance as well.

CSI assigns schools a performance rating each year based on academic, financial, and organizational performance from the previous school year. The CSI performance framework aligns with the state framework but adds a “Performance with Distinction” rating beyond the state’s top rating of “Performance”.

The suspension of state assessments during the 2019-2020 school year created a gap in the evaluation of academic performance for accountability. The base accreditation ratings from 2019, which were determined by academic performance during the 2018-19 school year, were maintained and became the base accreditation rating for 2020. CSI still evaluated financial and organizational performance for the 2019-2020 school year.

CSI Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Ryan Marks, shares: “Despite the disruption in state academic testing, CSI remains committed to upholding model authorizing practices and has continued to let schools know how they are doing, providing information to help schools develop and improve, offering schools the opportunity to regularly check its record, and ensuring public transparency.”

The following schools received “Performance with Distinction” for the 2019-2020 year:

School	Location	Model	Grades
Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County	Parker	Early College	9-12
Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins	Fort Collins	Early College	6-12
Community Leadership Academy	Commerce City	Core Knowledge	K-5
Golden View Classical Academy	Golden	Classical	K-12
James Irwin Charter Academy	Colorado Springs	Core Knowledge	K-5
Thomas MacLaren School	Colorado Springs	Classical	K-12
Mountain Middle School	Durango	Project-Based	4-8
Steamboat Montessori (formerly Mountain Village Montessori)	Steamboat Springs	Montessori	PK-6
The Academy of Charter Schools	Westminster	College Prep	PK-12

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](#).