

**For Immediate Release**

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## **CSI Board Approves Middle School Addition for Colorado Early Colleges Colorado Springs**

DENVER, CO (January 19, 2021) – At its regular board meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) Board of Directors approved the expansion application for Colorado Early Colleges Colorado Springs (CECCS). The high school, which has operated in Colorado Springs since 2007, will expand to offer grades 6-8 beginning in Fall 2021.

As Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, Executive Director of the CSI shares: “The Colorado Springs campus has demonstrated strong student outcomes, continually earning the state’s highest rating over the last several years. The school offered a sound plan for a middle school program and has demonstrated the leadership, financial, and operational capacity to implement the expansion over the next several months.”

The expansion to offer a middle school program is not new to the Colorado Early Colleges network. In fact, this will be the third middle school program added to the network in recent years as part of a larger plan to engage students earlier to ensure students are fully prepared for the high school program.

As the school’s expansion application noted, “The ultimate focus [of the middle school program] is to ensure students have mastered the necessary skills to start high school and begin considering college level coursework and/or career coursework as a 9th grader, or soon thereafter.”

The middle school will be housed on the existing Colorado Springs campus with the middle school building including classrooms as well as a scratch kitchen and cafeteria. The middle school will share existing outdoor amenities with the high school, including a basketball court, gaga pit, and recreational green courtyard spaces.

School leader Jennifer Daugherty shares, “Colorado Early Colleges Colorado Springs is ecstatic that the CSI Board approved the expansion application for our middle school. The CECCS middle school program will be a unique model that focuses on building student skills in all areas of their life: academics, social-emotional, wellbeing, and resiliency. We firmly believe that this approach will help meet the needs of students and families in the Colorado Springs and surrounding areas as we aspire to fulfill our mission and help students succeed in school, in college, and in their chosen career.”

As a public charter school, CEC Colorado Springs is a tuition-free and open to all students. At CEC, each student, regardless of background or skill level, will have the opportunity to pursue a growth mindset that will allow them to achieve mastery and to demonstrate they can succeed in school, in

college, and in their chosen career. No exceptions. No excuses. The CEC Colorado Springs campus is now enrolling for the 2021-22 school year. For more information, please visit the [CECCS website](#).

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***About the Colorado Early Colleges Network***

*Colorado Early Colleges was founded in 2007 by former Senator Keith King. The CEC Network of early college schools provides students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to begin career exploration in middle school and begin college-level courses as early as 9th grade if they are college ready. As a result, most high school students graduate with a focused career or college path and a debt-free associate degree, industry certification or more. CEC currently serves students across the state with campuses in Aurora, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Fort Collins West, Windsor, Parker, Inverness, and Castle Rock. Satellite offices for its College Direct program are available in Westminster.*

***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](http://www.csi.state.co.us) and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*