

For Immediate Release

January 15, 2021

Press Contact

Amanda Oberg
Communications Coordinator
(720) 985-1481
amandaoberg@csi.state.co.us

CSI Charter School Portfolio Shows Continued Improvement in Graduation and Dropout Rates

DENVER, CO (January 15, 2021) – As the state’s release of 2019-2020 student data shows, the Charter School Institute (CSI) portfolio of public charter schools continues to make improvements in both graduation rates and dropout rates and at greater rates than the state as a whole.

The improvement in these rates is the result of intentional work by our schools to establish college and career ready pathways that address the needs of students as well as a careful and purposeful review of disaggregated outcome data to inform school practices and programming.

Increase in Graduation Rates and Postsecondary Options

CSI’s 4-, 5-, 6-, and 7-year graduation rates have increased from prior years. Additionally, 4-year graduation rates for student subgroups—including economically disadvantaged students, students of color, students with IEPs, English Learners, and gifted and talented students—have increased from the prior year.

One contributing factor to these improvements has been the opportunities for college preparation and workforce readiness CSI schools have established and expanded in recent years. CSI schools have been increasing steadily the numbers of students earning college credit through concurrent enrollment courses, Colorado’s Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program, and the Early College model. In fact, since 2017, there has been a 44% increase in the number of students enrolled in CSI schools accessing college credit opportunities.

The CSI portfolio has also seen an expansion of workforce readiness opportunities. Since 2017, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at CSI schools have expanded from 9 to 11. CSI schools continue to take advantage of the Career Development Incentive Program (CDIP), a program that provides financial incentives for schools whose high school students complete qualified industry credential programs, internships, residencies, pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship programs, or qualified Advanced Placement (AP) courses. In fact, the percentage of students receiving industry recognized credentials has increased significantly since 2017.

Michael McManus, CSI Career Pathways and School Programs Coordinator, shares: “Not only are students persisting through high school at higher rates, but they are better prepared to take advantage of a multitude of postsecondary options. Upon graduation, students today have explored meaningful academic and career pathways and are better positioned to leverage their secondary experiences for postsecondary success.”

Reduction in Dropouts

Over the past five years, CSI has seen a six-percentage point decline in dropout rates, meeting state expectations for dropout rates. This is true for all student subgroups, including economically

disadvantaged students, students of color, students with IEPs, English Learners, and gifted and talented students.

###

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 or read our [Media Kit](#), and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).