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Press Contact

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

Latest RISE Fund Awardees Include CSI Charter Schools

Denver, CO (February 8, 2021) – Fourteen entities, including five charter schools authorized by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI), will receive \$1.48 million in grants as part of the latest round of the RISE Fund.

Governor Polis announced the [Response, Innovation, and Student Equity \(RISE\) Fund](#) in September as a mechanism to “address the learning challenges related to the economic, social, and health impacts of COVID-19”. The first round of winners [was announced](#) on November 10. [CSI schools](#) New America Lowry and Coperni 2 and Coperni 3 were awarded funds, and Kwiyyagat Community Academy was awarded the RISE Planning & Design Support grant.

Colorado League of Charter Schools

The second round of winners was announced in late January and included the Colorado League of Charter Schools. In partnership with the League, CSI will serve as the fiscal agent for the RISE Fund grants. The fourteen schools involved in the grant include five charter schools authorized by CSI: Animas High School, Global Village Academy, New Legacy Charter School, Steamboat Montessori (formerly Mountain Village Montessori), and Thomas MacLaren School.

These schools, along with other charters and a DPS innovation zone school, will use the funds to improve engagement and achievement through the “Increasing Diverse Learner Engagement & Achievement (IDLEA) Project”. Schools will work to support student engagement and will share lessons learned and tools used with schools across the entire state of Colorado.

New Legacy Charter School

Additionally, New Legacy Charter School in Aurora was awarded in the second round. New Legacy will get \$250,000 to “expand programming that addresses the social-emotional needs and trauma of students who are young parents, and ensure students graduate with credentials that help them get jobs.”

Kwiyyagat Community Academy

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will receive \$2.7 million to “develop science, math, and engineering curriculum that is integrated with Ute language, arts, and culture” for the [newly approved](#) Kwiyyagat Community Academy.

“As challenges persist, so do charter schools,” shared CSI Executive Director Dr. Terry Croy Lewis. “We are proud of the work of our schools and are happy to partner with the broader charter community to continue to innovate and support one another by sharing best practices.”

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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 18,000 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](#).