

The Charter School Institute (CSI) is committed to fostering high-quality charter school options, with a particular focus on service to and performance of underserved populations. **We take an active approach to evaluating and improving upon service to all students.**

Prioritizing Access & Equity

CSI's prioritization of access and equity continues today, and initiatives have shifted to adapt to school feedback and identified needs.



CSI developed its Equity Screener and Tiers of Support to both assess and support schools in providing equal access and quality programs to students qualifying for specialized supports.

Equity Screener Tool

- Reviews a school's performance across indicators such as academic growth, enrollment, and discipline
- Informs identification and programming for students with disabilities, English Learners, Gifted students, students experiencing homelessness, students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, and minority populations

Tiers of Support

- All schools have access to universal supports such as trainings and technical assistance
- Tier 2 and 3 schools have access to additional and customized support such as regular check-ins and on-site visits

Early Outcomes

CSI continues to increase service to students with special needs and remains comparable to the state for enrollment of students of color, English Learners, and students with 504 plans.

Since 2016, service to students with IEPs increased by

48%

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Capacity-Building Initiatives

CSI Special Education Coordinators

Each CSI school is assigned a CDE-licensed special education provider or administrator that serves as the designee of the CSI Special Education Director providing oversight, consultation, mediation, and professional development to each of its schools.

CSI directly employs Special Education Coordinators rather than requiring each school to employ its own coordinator. This helps to reduce the administrative burden on schools while also providing a standard level of support across the CSI portfolio of schools.

Professional Development

CSI offers professional development and scholarship opportunities to build capacity around special education at the school level. CSI partners with the **RELAY Graduate School of Education** to offer the Inclusive Schools Leadership Institute and a Special Education Endorsement program. In addition to **regional trainings** on a variety of topics offered by CSI, trainings are also offered through the **Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI)**, an international training organization specializing in the safe management of disruptive and assaultive behavior.

Financial Supports

- ◆ **ECEA Funds:** 85% of state and federal funds flow directly to schools with the remainder spent on special education coordinators and related staff development. CSI does not charge any additional special education fees to schools.
- ◆ **SPED Reserve:** CSI schools **maintain a Special Education Reserve** within their budgets to respond to unexpected needs of students with disabilities.
- ◆ **Higher Needs Grants:** CSI works to **provide assistance through grants and loans** to address unanticipated costs for higher needs of students with disabilities.
- ◆ **Increased Funding:** CSI increased funding to schools serving an above average special education population.

Partnerships

CSI partners with experts in the field to improve resources and outcomes for special education students.



Expanding Frontiers in Public Education