

The Charter School Institute (CSI) uses a data-based screening process to identify potential areas of inequity and provide individualized school supports to address and close those gaps. **This active approach allows us to improve service to all students.**

Prioritizing Access & Equity

In line with its mission, CSI prioritizes access and equity. Over time, our 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 areas such as academic growth, enrollment, attendance, and discipline
- Informs identification and programming for students with disabilities, Multilingual 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 supports will include access to additional and customized options 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, Multilingual Learners, and students with 504 plans.

Since 2017, the percentage of students with special needs served by CSI schools has increased by **21%**

The Charter School Institute (CSI) is committed to fostering high-quality public school choices that serve **all** students. CSI has established the following initiatives to provide greater supports around special education services.

Capacity-Building Initiatives

CSI Special Education Coordinators

Each CSI school is assigned a CDE-licensed special education 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, CSI staff provides professional development on Trauma-informed care and Non-Violent Crisis Prevention 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.

