

**For Immediate Release**

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## **State Chartering Agency Renews Local Charter School**

Denver, CO (December 15, 2021) – Six charter schools overseen by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) were [renewed for varying contract terms](#) at the December 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. This includes Colorado Early Colleges Aurora, a school serving students in grades 9-12 in Aurora.

### **Colorado Early Colleges Aurora (CECA)**

The Colorado Early Colleges (CEC) network of schools focuses on college and career readiness and has invested significant resources to that end. CSI's renewal report highlights the many ways in which that investment is paying off.

Although recent assessment data was not available due to the statewide accountability pause due to COVID-19, CECA has consistently outperformed its district in achievement scores, including for students with disabilities and other student subgroups.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) participation has increased at CECA from 11.1% in 2018 to 48.4% for 2019. CTE courses are offered in a classroom outfitted for robotics design, 3D printings, laser engraving, and airborne drone test flights - part of a drone pilot certification program available to students. Other certifications are offered through partnerships with local colleges, including Metro State University and the Community College of Aurora.

CECA has also seen a substantial increase in the best-of graduation rate, which is higher than the district, and improvements in the dropout rate since its opening in 2017.

The programming at CEC is not only showing positive outcomes during students' high school years—it's leading to positive outcomes when students enroll in postsecondary institutions. Notably, no CECA students for the Class of 2019 required developmental education upon entering postsecondary institutions, which is significantly better than the state (26.7%) and the geographic district (39.5%) averages.

The school was granted a contract term of five years. CECA school leader Hannah Reese shares, "I am impressed each day by the supportive environment our staff creates to help each student achieve a credential or associate degree while still in high school, and we are thrilled to continue to do so while expanding our offerings to students."

Learn more about the school and enroll for the upcoming school year:

<https://coloradoearlycolleges.org/aurora/>

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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 Towaoc 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](#).*