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Press Contact

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Spark Health Corps to expand Mental Wellness Program at 10 CSI charter public schools

Denver, CO (July 7, 2022) – Ten Colorado charter public schools authorized by the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) will participate in [Spark the Change Colorado](http://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org)'s Mental Wellness Program for the 2022-23 school year.

CSI is partnering with Spark the Change Colorado, AmeriCorps, and Serve Colorado to create [Spark Health Corps](http://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org), which will expand Spark's Mental Wellness program in Colorado. Spark [recently announced](http://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org) that it was awarded a \$219,457 Public Health grant for this program.

This funding will allow Spark to leverage the skills and experience of 20 AmeriCorps members in Colorado to provide mental wellness counseling and education to K-12 students at ten public charter schools authorized by CSI. Members will advance their mental health careers while making an immediate, lasting impact on mental health of these school communities. There has been a spotlight on the need for mental health services in schools over the past few years, with a [youth mental health crisis declared in 2021](http://www.youthmentalhealthcrisis.org) and a [2020 Mental Health America](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net) survey showing gaps in access to mental health professionals.

Betsy Basch, CSI Mental Health Programs Specialist, shares, "This is an incredible opportunity for CSI schools to have access to high-quality mental health services, as well as an opportunity to think creatively about how to add to the mental health resources in our state."

CSI schools participating in the Mental Wellness Program are listed below. The program is currently recruiting members to serve at all locations. View the full [position description](#) and for more information or to apply please contact Barb Knapp, Program Manager, at bknapp@sparkthechangecolorado.org.

[Animas High School \(Durango, CO\)](#): Animas High School is located in Durango, Colorado, serving students in grades 9-12 with a Project-Based Learning educational model. Animas High School's mission is to prepare all students for college and postsecondary success by creating critical thinkers and engaged citizens through an innovative, student-centered, project-based curriculum.

[Colorado Early Colleges Parker \(Parker, CO\)](#): Colorado Early Colleges Parker is located in Parker, Colorado, serving students in grades 9-12 with an Early Colleges educational model. Colorado Early Colleges Parker's mission is to provide all students,

regardless of background or skill level, to have the opportunity to pursue a growth mindset that will allow them to achieve mastery and to demonstrate that they can succeed in school, in college, and in their chosen career.

[Colorado Military Academy \(Colorado Springs, CO\)](#): Colorado Military Academy is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, serving students in grades K-12 with a Military Academy educational model. The vision of Colorado Military Academy is to be the premier military academy in the region recognized for STEM excellence and developing strong leaders of character.

[Coperni 2 \(Colorado Springs, CO\)](#): Coperni 2 is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, serving students in grades K-8 with a Personalized Learning educational model. The school's mission focuses on building a high performance and caring culture that has high expectations and where the main instructional delivery model is personalized learning, and its vision is founded on the notion that a Year 2030 workplace will require new skills and the ability to think critically.

[James Irwin Charter Academy \(Colorado Springs, CO\)](#): James Irwin Charter Academy is located in Colorado, Springs, Colorado, serving students in grades K-5 with a Core Knowledge educational model. The mission of James Irwin Charter Schools is to help guide students in the development of their character and academic potential through academically rigorous, content-rich educational programs.

[Kwiyagat Community Academy \(Towaoc, CO\)](#): Kwiyagat Community Academy is located in Towaoc, Colorado, serving students in grades K-2 with a Project-Based Learning educational model. The mission of the Kwiyagat Community Academy is to ensure an educational program where the Nuchiu culture and language guides the educational experience and is characterized by small class sizes with an interdisciplinary, indigenous, and project-based approach that results in high academic expectations and desired character skills, personal wellness, and community involvement.

[Monument View Montessori \(Fruita, CO\)](#): Monument View Montessori Charter School is located in Fruita, Colorado, serving students in grades PK-3 with a Montessori educational model. Monument View Montessori's mission is to instill a lifelong love of learning through a structured and individualized classroom experience aimed at nurturing the self-directed student. Monument View Montessori envisions itself as a leader in rural Montessori education. Leaning heavily on the Montessori linchpins of grace and courtesy, MVMCS is committed to providing students the structure, guidance, and affirmation necessary to realize their full potential.

[New America School Aurora \(Aurora, CO\)](#): New America School Aurora is located in Aurora, Colorado, serving students in grades 9-12 with an Alternative Education Campus educational model. New America School Aurora's mission is to serve English Language Learners, new immigrants, non-traditional students, and traditional students seeking a more personal atmosphere that fits their learning needs.

[Prospect Academy \(Arvada, CO\)](#): Prospect Academy is located in Arvada, Colorado, and opening this fall to students in grades 5-8 with a Personalized Learning educational model. Prospect Academy is founded on the belief that all students, including those who learn differently and those that struggle in school, can reach their potential with the right programming and support. Their mission is to provide a safe, calm, and inclusive learning environment that educates students with behavioral and learning challenges and prepares them for a successful life from high school to college or career.

Steamboat Montessori (Steamboat Springs, CO): Steamboat Montessori is located in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, serving students in grades PK-6 with a Montessori educational model. Steamboat Montessori's mission is to inspire all children to learn and grow as responsible global citizens in a collaborative, peaceful and safe environment. Steamboat Montessori is committed to using authentic Montessori methods with integrity to develop each child's intrinsic intelligence as they become resilient, self-directed leaders and problem solvers.

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About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 40+ 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 and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Spark the Change Colorado

Spark the Change Colorado: *At Spark we are innovators, idea generators, listeners and connectors. We focus on the needs of our community and then bring people together to make a transformative impact. Our mission is to spark change and inspire a movement of good through the power of service, volunteerism, and civic engagement. Our volunteer-driven programs and services spark mutual connections that help create a stronger, more resilient, equitable, and connected Colorado.*