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State Assessment Results Show CSI Schools Performing on Par with State

As shared earlier this week by the Colorado Department of Education, state assessment results demonstrate that while some gains have been made, there is much more work to be done to address the learning loss over the last few years.

Participation rates improved statewide, and CSI schools saw an impressive 92% participation rate on the CMAS ELA and 91% participation rate on CMAS Math.

As an entity that authorizes 43 charter schools serving over 20,000 students across the state, the [Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us)'s portfolio-wide results are generally comparable to the state.

Given the diversity in model, size, and geography of CSI schools, Institute staff continue to focus on school-level, regional, and model-specific outcomes.

Annual School Evaluations Consider More than Academics

Over the last few years while state results have been limited, CSI has been working to update its annual school evaluation system—the [CSI Annual Review of Schools](#), better known as “CARS.”

In addition to being evaluated against state's standard measures of achievement, growth, and postsecondary and workforce readiness, CSI looks at measures related to financial and operational performance.

With the implementation of CARS 3.0, CSI will consider additional measures of school performance, such as stability and returning student rates, access to postsecondary enrollment, and governance.

Model-Specific Measures

Additionally, schools will have the opportunity to provide data for evaluating outcomes aligned to the school's mission and approach.

This model-specific approach is not new to CSI and in fact has been an initiative for the last several years.

For example, CSI authorizes five Montessori schools across the state. Montessori schools are known for their mixed age classrooms and three-year cycles of learning which allow students the opportunity to reach development goals at their own pace. To consider how the Montessori approach impacts outcomes on standard assessments, CSI has built out its model-specific analyses that considers the three-year Montessori cycle of learning.

A large percentage of CSI's postsecondary students attend Early Colleges. The Early College model where students complete secondary and postsecondary coursework in high school and upon graduation, earn a high school diploma as well as at least 60 credits towards a postsecondary credential. With continued enrollment growth in the Early Colleges, CSI continues to partner with its Early Colleges in determining additional measures for considering school success specific to postsecondary readiness and credit and certificate attainment.

While the initiative is not new, CSI will work closely with schools to build out and identify existing data that shows how a school is performing.

"We value the ability to compare school performance across our portfolio, districts, and the state as well as the ability to evaluate each school's performance against its own mission, approach, and values. In this way, our accountability process provides a big picture and nuanced information with which our staff and board can make data-informed authorization decisions." shared Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, Executive Director of CSI.

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About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing over 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](#).