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CSI Board Approves New School Application for Wildflower Montessori in Aurora

Denver, CO (November 15, 2022) – During its November 15th regular board meeting, the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors approved the new charter public school application for Wildflower Montessori.

Wildflower Montessori

Wildflower Montessori utilizes a “micro-school” Montessori model, which emphasizes a “diverse network of community-embedded schools”. The mission of Wildflower Montessori is to “provide families with child-centered, authentic Montessori education that bridges academic outcomes and social-emotional development through intimate learning communities deeply rooted in place, equity, and belonging.”

Wildflower Montessori will plan to open in the fall of 2023 in Aurora, serving students in grades PK-2 across two sites. The school plans to build out over time to serve PK-6 across additional sites. “An authentic Montessori Method education helps students develop their intrinsic motivation for learning as well as the social and emotional skills needed to thrive in life,” said WMPSC Board Chair Latia Henderson who is a resident and active community member in Aurora.

As noted in the recommendation report, the proposal demonstrated strong community interest and support from the community and prospective families as well as a commitment to serving families and students from diverse backgrounds and with diverse learning needs.

CSI Executive Director Dr. Terry Croy Lewis shares, “We are excited to welcome this unique model to the CSI portfolio of schools, which will offer new educational opportunities to communities in Aurora.”

CSI Application Process

In May of 2022, the local district released Wildflower Montessori to apply to CSI. Wildflower Montessori submitted its application to CSI in August.

The CSI new school application review process includes a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the written proposal, a capacity interview with the school’s proposed leadership, board, and founding team, and a presentation to the CSI Board’s Performance Management Committee. The review team included members of CSI staff with expertise in finance, governance, academics, and operations as well as external reviewers. The process also requires a community meeting to hear from local stakeholders.

Once a contract is executed between the school's board and the CSI Board of Directors, the school's team will participate in the Year 0 process with CSI staff—a process developed to monitor and support new schools as they prepare for opening.

Learn more about Wildflower Montessori here: <https://wildflowerschools.org/co/>.

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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](#).