

Misconception #1

"Charter schools are private schools."

FACT: Charter schools are public schools.

In Colorado, there are over **1,900 public schools** serving over 886,000 students. These public schools may be:



Traditional Schools

or



Charter Schools

or



Innovation Schools

Within the state, there are over **260 charter public schools**. These charter public schools are either overseen by:

The local school district

or

A state entity known as the Charter School Institute



Like all public schools, charter schools are **tuition-free** and open to all.

Misconception #2

"Charter schools are not part of the local community."

FACT: Charter schools have been a piece of Colorado's public education community for nearly 30 years.

Charter public schools **serve and partner** with their local communities.

Those applying to open a charter school must demonstrate **community need and support**.

Schools are overseen by their boards of education, which can be comprised of **parents and community members**.

Misconception #3

“Charter schools are not held accountable.”

FACT: The state holds all public schools, including charter public schools, accountable for academic performance.



Each public school, including charter public schools, receives a plan rating based on its academic performance by the state.



CSI schools are evaluated against additional measures, including performance in academics, finance, and operations.

Misconception #4

“Charter schools do not serve all students.”

FACT: Charter public schools serve all students.

Charter public schools are open to all.

- ✓ Public schools must use a **fair & transparent** enrollment selection process.
- ✓ Rule and law prohibit discrimination based on academic ability or the need for special education services.
- ✓ Charter public schools offer **unique educational models** to meet the unique needs of their communities.

CSI schools serve students that are reflective of the state average for emerging multilingual learners, students of color, and students with a 504 plan, and continue to increase service to students with special needs.

