

What is a Charter Authorizer?

Charter authorizers hold schools accountable for meeting local, state, and federal requirements.

A charter authorizer has the authority to:

- Open new schools,
- Monitor the performance of existing schools, and
- Close failing schools

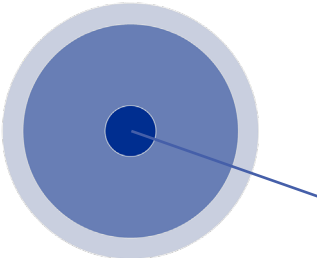
Colorado Charter Authorizers

In Colorado, school districts or the Charter School Institute can oversee charter public schools. However, eligibility for authorization by CSI depends on exclusive chartering authority.

Exclusive Chartering Authority

CSI authorizes charter schools in districts:

1. that do not retain exclusive chartering authority (ECA), or
2. that retain ECA but release an applicant to apply directly to CSI.



178 school districts exist in Colorado

173 school districts retain exclusive chartering authority

45 school districts authorize one or more charter schools

Fundamental Principles

Fundamental principles of charter authorizing include:

- **Access** to high-quality school options for all students
- **Autonomy** for schools to offer an education program that meet the needs of their students
- **Accountability** for schools in meeting high expectations

The CSI Portfolio of Schools

CSI considers applications for new schools, existing charters seeking to transfer authorization to CSI, as well as expansions, replications, and renewals of existing CSI schools.

Applicants with the option to apply to CSI undergo a rigorous application review process.

~50%

of new school applications are approved by the CSI Board and open

High-Quality Authorizing

The CSI approach to authorizing charter public schools balances autonomy and accountability.

CSI offers its schools the flexibility to choose the educational models and methods that best meet the unique needs of their students and communities and holds its schools accountable to clear expectations for academic, financial, and organizational performance.