

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2023

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**CSI Board Approves New School Application for
Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado in Grand Junction**

Denver, CO (June 13, 2023) – During its June 13 regular board meeting, the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) Board of Directors approved the new charter public school application for Wildflower Montessori Public School of Colorado (WMPSC) in Grand Junction. In November 2022, the CSI Board [approved](#) WMPSC in Aurora.

Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado Opening in Grand Junction

WMPSC utilizes a “micro-school” Montessori model, which emphasizes a “diverse network of community-embedded schools”. The mission of WMPSC *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.*

The first Grand Valley micro-school sites are expected to open in the 2024-25 school year. The sites will initially serve students in grades PK-3 and build out over time to serve PK-6 with four total microsites across the Grand Valley over five years—ultimately serving 192 students. Each school site will be teacher-led, designed in partnership with families and community partners, and no larger than two classrooms (32-60 students total).

“I’m so grateful for all the support we have already received from the community here in the Grand Valley,” said Emma Reicks, one of the founding Teacher Leaders at WMPSC in Grand Valley. Reicks is an experienced educator, trained Montessorian and long-time resident of Grand Junction.

“An authentic Montessori 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. “Research shows that spending even a few years in a Montessori environment has a long-term impact on student well-being and achievement.”

“At WMPSC, we help advance the mission of local school districts to provide all students with a high-quality education. Our schools also support communities by making more free Early Childhood Education spots available for families facing childcare and financial obstacles,” said Henderson.

WMPSC is currently accepting interest forms from families who may want to enroll their children. Families and community members who would like to learn more or support WMPSC’s

mission can reach out directly through the contact form on the website:
<https://www.wfcopublicschools.org/>.

CSI Application Process

The local district released WMPSC to apply to CSI in December of 2022. WMPSC submitted its application for Grand Valley to CSI in March.

The CSI new school application review process includes a comprehensive analysis 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 WMPSC here: <https://www.wfcopublicschools.org/>.

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About Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado

Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado (WMPSC) are free, public charter schools that bring together community, family, and talented teacher leaders to give our children a personalized education in an engaging, safe and nurturing environment. WMPSC schools are members of the Wildflower Network: an ecosystem of decentralized Montessori microschools that support children, teachers, and parents. Wildflower aspires to give all children and families the opportunity to choose high-quality, beautiful learning environments as they follow life's unfolding journey. Learn more at <https://www.wfcopublicschools.org/> and follow WMPSC on [Facebook](#).

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](#).