

For Immediate Release

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CSI Board Approves New School Applications for Two Charter Public Schools in Adams 14

Denver, CO (June 20, 2023) – During a June 20th special board meeting, the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors approved the new school applications for Be The Change Community School and University Prep – Commerce City.

CSI Application Process

In May, the Colorado State Board of Education voted to remove exclusive chartering authority from Adams 14, allowing schools desiring to locate in the district to choose to apply either to Adams 14 or directly to CSI. Following the decision, Be The Change Community School and University Prep – Commerce City submitted applications to CSI.

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, a presentation to the CSI Board's Performance Management Committee, and a community meeting to hear from local stakeholders. The review team included members of CSI staff with expertise in finance, governance, academics, and operations as well as external reviewers.

Over the next year, the schools' teams will participate in the Year 0 process with CSI staff—a process developed to monitor and support new schools as they prepare for opening.

Be The Change Community School

Be The Change Community School utilizes a problem-based and biliteracy educational model. The mission of Be The Change is to “cultivate shapers of change who lead toward justice”. The school expects to open in the fall of 2024 and will initially serve students in grade 9, building out over time to serve grades 9-12, ultimately enrolling just over 500 students.

“We are absolutely honored by the approval and thrilled for our Commerce City community to have an additional high school option in order for families to make the best decision for their children,” shared Amanda Gonzales, Be The Change co-founder. “The people of Commerce City deserve equal access to educational opportunities, and now they'll be able to participate in creating the school that is best for their child.”

Be The Change is currently accepting interest forms from families who may want to enroll their children. Families and community members who would like to learn more can visit <https://www.bethechangecommunityschool.org/>.

University Prep – Commerce City

University Prep’s mission is to “prepare every child for a four-year college degree and a life of opportunity”. University Prep currently operates two elementary school campuses in Northeast Denver with a college prep educational model. University Prep – Commerce City plans to open in the fall of 2024 serving students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, expanding over time to enroll students up to grade 5.

The Commerce City location was co-designed with a group of parent leaders from within the local community and combines core elements of U Prep’s existing schools with the unique wants and needs of families from within Adams 14.

David Singer, Founder & Executive Director, shared the network’s excitement following CSI’s decision – “Parent voice and parent choice have been at the center of our efforts to found our new campus for Commerce City for more than 2 years, and today, CSI’s affirmative vote uplifted those parent voices, bringing a new, high-quality school choice to the local community.”

Learn more at <https://uprepschool.org/>.

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About Be The Change

Learn more at <https://www.bethechangecommunityschool.org/>.

About University Prep – Commerce City

Learn more at <https://uprepschool.org/>.

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](#).