

For Immediate Release

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State Assessment Results Show Improvements and Opportunities

While results from state assessments administered last spring show areas of promising gains from the prior year, student achievement largely remains below pre-pandemic levels.

As a statewide charter authorizer, CSI oversees 43 charter public schools across the state of Colorado. CSI schools offer 16 unique education models and are in more than 20 towns and cities, serving over 22,000 students.

CSI Performance Largely Mirrors State Trends

Given CSI's size and span across the state, performance of the CSI portfolio generally reflects that of the state as a whole. CSI earned a "Performance" rating for the 2022-23 school year from the Colorado Department of Education, as recently released district performance reports share.

Achievement

- **CMAS:** Overall, CSI schools saw an improvement in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in both English Language Arts and Math compared to 2022 and remain comparable to the state averages. However, percentages still don't meet those from 2019 prior to the pandemic and largely remain below the state average.
- **PSAT/SAT:** While CSI schools performed higher than the state average across Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing as well as Mathematics across all tested grades, performance remained generally flat from the prior year.

Growth

CSI, similar to the state's accountability system, prioritizes growth over achievement as it provides an indicator of the relative growth of individual students from one year to the next and focuses the conversation on the direct impact of our schools in meeting the needs of all students.

Overall, CSI schools demonstrated growth comparable to the state for CMAS and PSAT/SAT. However, several areas of promise could be identified from the results.

"As an organization that values continuous improvement, we are taking a deep dive into the results" shares Executive Director, Dr. Terry Croy Lewis.

"We are identifying promising practices across schools that have made some of the greatest gains overall and with their special populations and how we can foster greater opportunities for sharing these promising practices across schools."

“Additionally, we are evaluating how we can best support our schools in their highest priority areas while continuing to respect each school’s unique model and approach.”

Students with Special Needs

For example, while academic growth of students with special needs has remained low across the state, CSI schools are approaching expectations for growth specifically for students with IEPs. CSI has continued to invest in staffing and resources to support its schools in identifying and serving students with special needs.

In fact, CSI’s Special Education Coordinators bring have an average of 25 years of experience in the field, and several coordinators have experience as special education directors at districts and BOCES.

Exceptionally qualified staff, tiered training and supports to meet schools’ unique needs, and a commitment to the continuous evaluation and refinement of practices are helping to establish the conditions necessary to see improved and sustained gains.

One early indicator of success from this organizational commitment to students with special needs is the consistent increase in the percentage of students with special needs enrolling at CSI schools over the last several years.

Multilingual Learners

Another opportunity identified in state assessment results is the service to and performance of multilingual learners in CSI schools. CSI’s serves a slightly high percentage of multilingual learners than the state and this student population has demonstrated increases in its median growth percentile over the last three years.

While the state results show significant growth gaps remaining for multilingual learners and their peers who are not multilingual learners, this was not the case for CSI.

In fact, the growth gap between multilingual learners and their peers in CSI schools has decreased or been eliminated across many grade levels.

With the addition of a position focused solely on oversight and support of multilingual learner requirements and programming in schools, CSI is encouraged these positive gains can be sustained in ELA and additional gains can be made in Math.

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About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 41 schools from Cortez 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](#).