

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Institute Charter Schools See Continued Enrollment Growth**

DENVER, CO (January 17, 2024) – While the state saw slight enrollment declines for the second year in a row, student enrollment at Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) schools continued to see a slight increase. Contributing to this increase was the buildout of grades and the expansion of seats at existing CSI schools, along with the opening of three schools.

The CSI portfolio of charter public schools is serving just over 23,000 students in preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade this school year. Recent state data reveals that CSI stands as the 13th largest local education agency (LEA) in the state serving PK-12 students.

CSI's 43 charter public schools are located across the state, up and down the Front Range and in western Colorado. Schools range in size from just over 50 students—like Monument View Montessori in Fruita—to just under 2,000 students—like The Pinnacle Charter School in Federal Heights. CSI schools offer sixteen unique educational models including alternative education campuses, classical education, project-based learning, and language immersion.

### **Growth Across Student Populations**

CSI's traditional school programs saw a notable increase in students eligible for free lunch. Additionally, the portfolio experienced a slight increase in service to students with disabilities and 504 plans, students with giftedness, students of color, students experiencing homelessness, and English Learners.

### **Universal Preschool**

Twelve CSI schools are actively engaged in the inaugural year of Universal Preschool Colorado (UPK), serving 360 pre-K students. Notably, two new preschools within the CSI portfolio were established in the 2023-24 school year: Academy of Arts and Knowledge in Fort Collins and Mountain Juniper Montessori in Aurora.

CSI's Early Learning and School Support Coordinator, Willyn Webb, commended the proactive communication with families and ongoing flexibility and positivity demonstrated by CSI schools in this first year of implementation.

### **Continued Improvement in Postsecondary Outcomes**

In addition to student enrollment growth, CSI's portfolio continues to make gains in postsecondary outcomes based on the 2022-23 data released by the state last month. The CSI portfolio average graduation rate continues to increase. Dropout rates remain steady and below the state average.

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**About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)**

*CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing over 40 schools from Durango to Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction to Colorado Springs and serving over 23,000 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](http://www.csi.state.co.us) and follow CSI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*