

**For Immediate Release**

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**Press Contact**

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## **CSI Board Approves New School Applications for High 2.0 in Colorado Springs and Aurora**

DENVER, CO (August 20, 2024) – During its August 20th regular board meeting, the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) Board of Directors approved two new charter public school applications for 2.0 Schools in Colorado Springs and Aurora. The schools will open in the fall of 2026.

### **2.0 Schools Colorado**

2.0 Schools Colorado will be a network of Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) serving students in grades 9-12 who are in recovery from substance use. High 2.0's mission is to "prepare students for college, career, and personal success in a dynamic world through meaningful, engaging learning experiences and a peer-led, inclusive community of youth supporting each other in a substance-free lifestyle."

The schools will be modeled after 5280 High School, a charter public school currently operating and authorized by Denver Public Schools.

Both the Aurora and Colorado Springs high schools are planned to open in the fall of 2026 and have been approved for an initial contract of three years. The extended time between application approval and opening will allow for fund development to address the unique needs of the target student population and a thorough search for founding school leaders.

Melissa Mouton, school founder, shared: "We are looking forward to working with CSI through this process, and are grateful for the partnership and support from the Aurora and Colorado Springs communities. Too many youth today manage to fall through the cracks of our existing systems; we are excited to launch High 2.0 and support youth who need this unique resource."

### **CSI Application Process**

Colorado Springs School District 11 released High 2.0 Colorado Springs to apply to CSI in April of 2024. Adams-Arapahoe 28J School District released High 2.0 Aurora to apply to CSI in June of 2024.

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, 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.

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.

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### **About High 2.0**

*High 2.0 offers a hands-on, project based curriculum that emphasizes individual interests and acquisition of real-world skills. Graduates earn a Colorado diploma that is college- and career-ready. Credit recovery available; enrollment year-round. Learn more at <https://www.2-0schools.org/>.*

### **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 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 systems, facility selection, and staffing. The focus on outcomes rather than processes allows CSI to be neutral on educational approaches and maintain a diverse portfolio of school models, which include Classical, Early College, Alternative, and Montessori. Learn more at [www.csi.state.co.us](http://www.csi.state.co.us) and follow CSI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*