COLORADO
CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE

2025-2026

Annual Report



Expanding What's Possible



OUR Mission

Our mission is to foster high-quality charter public school choices for all students.

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Front Cover Photo: Pinnacle Charter School
Mission Page Photo: Caprock Academy
Table of Contents Photo: Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Colorado

Dear Friends,

We are proud to share the Colorado Charter School Institute's 2025-26 Annual Report. This year's theme, *Expanding What's Possible*, reflects CSI's commitment to helping schools strengthen their programs and respond to the changing needs of their communities.

CSI's mission calls us to foster high-quality charter public school choices for all students. Fulfilling that mission requires strong accountability, thoughtful partnership, and a willingness to adapt. It also requires us to listen closely to schools and respond in ways that meet their needs.

Strengthening Support for Schools

This year, CSI expanded its tiered support model across departments. As part of this model, we deepened our focus on leadership and programmatic support for schools navigating the greatest challenges, recognizing the central role that strong leadership plays in building strong school systems.

We also increased support for school governing boards. Effective governance helps schools stay focused on mission, maintain organizational stability, and make informed decisions. By integrating governance support more consistently into our work, CSI is helping boards and school leaders address current needs while preparing for the future.

Our support for transfer schools grew as CSI experienced an increase in transfer applications. Schools entering the CSI portfolio bring distinct histories, systems, and community priorities. We worked to strengthen the transition process so incoming schools and CSI could build shared understanding and strong relationships, and ensure access to resources needed for a successful transfer. This work is continuing in 2026-27.

Responding to Increasing Student Needs

Schools continue to report that they feel supported by CSI in serving students with disabilities. At the same time, the intensity and complexity of student needs continue to increase.

In response, CSI increased its support for special education. This investment reflects our responsibility as both an authorizer and administrative unit. It also reflects what schools have told us: that they need sufficient resources, technical expertise, and strong systems to provide students with the services they need to thrive.

This work is one example of how CSI uses school feedback to guide action. Listening is essential, and meaningful partnership requires us to translate what we hear into practical support.

Building Capacity Across Colorado

CSI's work with Colorado's charter sector extends beyond the schools it authorizes. Through the CSI School Food Authority, we help both CSI-authorized and district-authorized charter public schools operate sustainable nutrition programs. CSI also serves as the fiscal agent for schools outside its portfolio, helping them access and responsibly manage funding that supports students and school communities.

These partnerships strengthen capacity across Colorado's charter school sector. They also demonstrate how shared systems and expertise can help individual schools overcome operational barriers while remaining focused on their students.

CSI continued to explore how authorizers can better support small and emerging school models. We developed a small schools initiative focused on the distinct challenges small schools face, including staffing, operational capacity, facilities, and financial sustainability. CSI will also continue to participate in the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) task force examining the authorization of microschools.

Small schools and microschools can create meaningful options for families and communities. Supporting these models requires thoughtful approaches that preserve accountability while recognizing differences in finances, scale, design, and context.

Contributing to the Field

CSI is committed to both learning from and contributing to the broader charter authorizing field. This year, that included presenting at national conferences on optimizing conditions for innovation, as well as bringing back new ideas and practices from peers across the country. We recognize our responsibility to continue strengthening our authorizing practices and contribute to the broader public education field.

Expanding what is possible does not happen through a single program or initiative. It happens when authorizers and schools listen to each other, respond thoughtfully, and build the conditions together in which students thrive. It happens when accountability is paired with support and when promising approaches are shared across communities.

We are grateful to the educators, school leaders, board members, families, students, and partners who make this work possible. Together, we are building stronger schools and expanding access to high-quality public school options for Colorado students.

With gratitude,

Dr. Brenda Dickhoner
CSI Board Chair

Dr. Terry Croy Lewis
CSI Executive Director





Who We Are

Our Mission is to foster high-quality charter public school choices for all students.

Our Vision is to be recognized as the nation's most effective charter school authorizer by building a portfolio of high-performing charter public schools that use innovative educational designs to serve all students.

What is an Authorizer?

An authorizer is an entity approved by the state legislature to:

1) open new charter schools,
2) monitor existing charter schools, and
3) close failing schools.

Charter public schools are accountable to their authorizer for meeting local, state, and federal requirements.

Fundamental principles of authorizing include:

- **Accountability** for schools to meet high expectations
- **Access** to high-quality school options for all students
- **Autonomy** for schools to best meet the needs of their students

CSI's Roles

CSI serves several roles, which require it to fulfill additional monitoring responsibilities beyond those of an entity that serves solely as an authorizer.



Authorizer



Fiscal Agent



Local Education Agency



Administrative Unit



School Food Authority

School Spotlight

Golden View Classical Academy

Golden, Colorado

Golden View Classical Academy (GVCA) built its Anchor Books program after noticing that transfer students couldn't name a single favorite book. They had only ever read excerpts, never a complete story. Each grade now selects one "anchor book" tied to that year's learning. Every student receives a copy, and the whole grade reads it together, culminating in a grade-level celebration. Second graders hear Peter Pan's final chapter read aloud, then feast. Pinocchio readers pass through a parent-built "shark's belly" in the hallway.

Older students, including seniors, get after-school events and thematic keepsakes. Since launching in 9th grade in 2017–18, the program has expanded to every grade, with volunteer spots filling quickly. GVCA's strong literacy outcomes suggest the approach works: shared reading helps books become part of who students are.



Mountain Middle School

Durango, Colorado

Mountain Middle School (MMS) in Durango faced a costly problem: with median home prices near $960,000, teachers couldn't afford to live there. Executive Director Shane Voss and the MMS Board built a solution funded entirely outside the operating budget.

The Housing and Wellness Bonus Program gives every employee a quarterly bonus for housing, health, or wellness costs. It's funded by interest from reserves invested in the Colorado Trust, which earns $15,000 to $18,000 monthly, covering the bonuses without touching the operating budget. Structuring it as a bonus rather than a salary increase ensures more reaches employees, and eligibility ties to performance. Since launching three years ago, the program has boosted retention, with 18 staff now in their fifth year or beyond, and MMS ranks among the top-performing schools in Colorado.

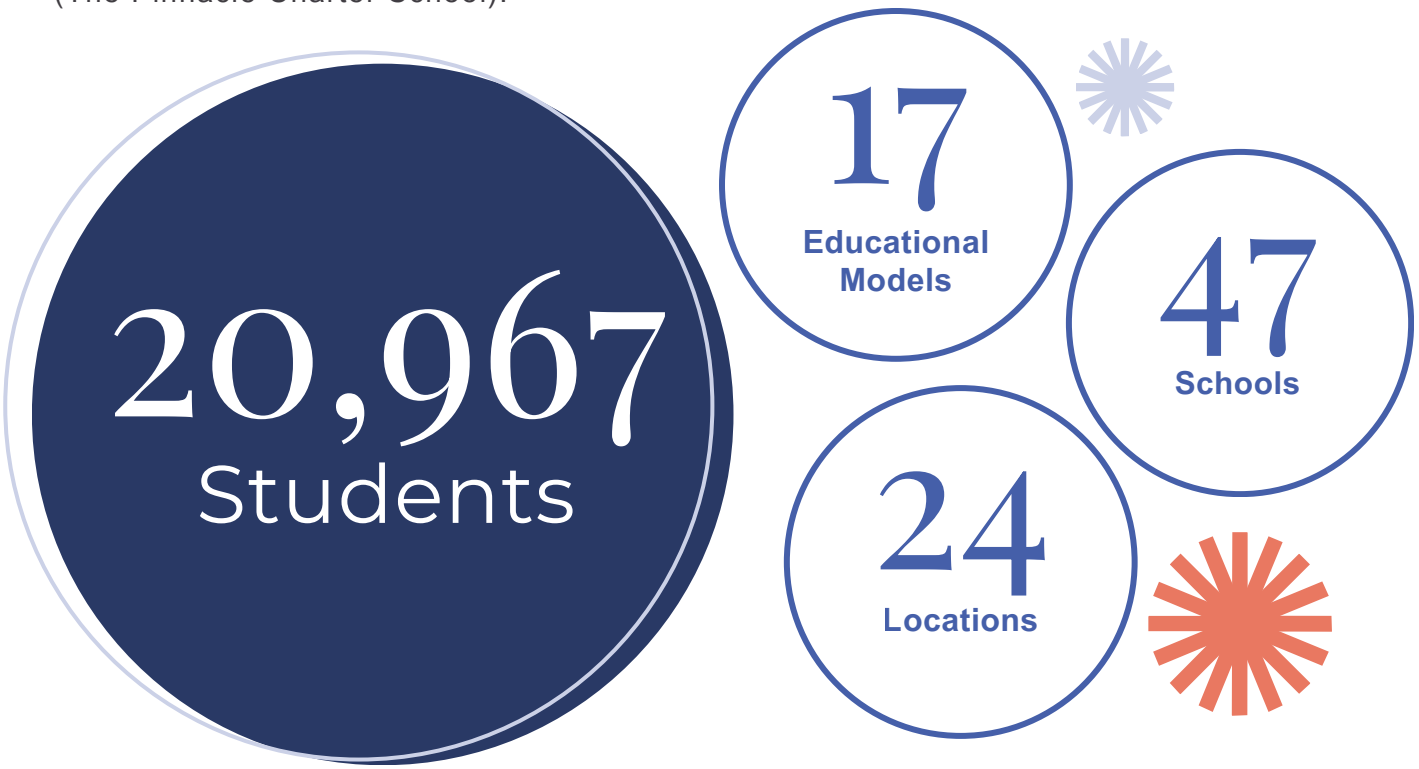
Photo: Golden View Classical Academy

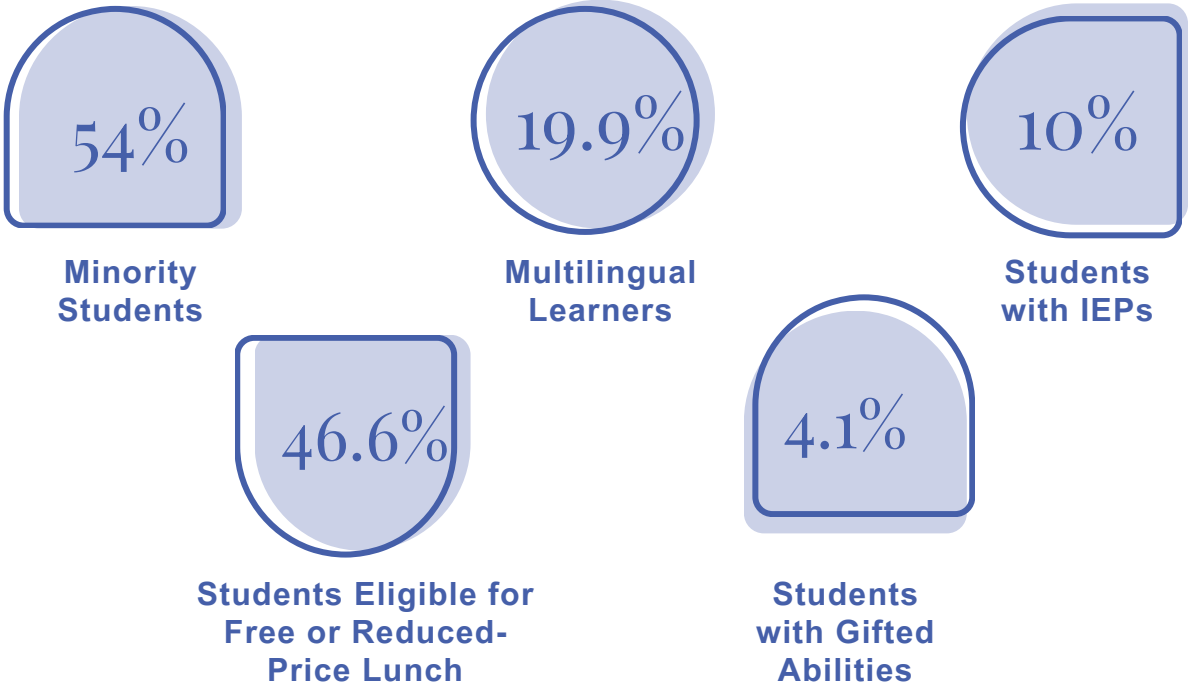
School	City	Model	Grades
Academy of Advanced Learning	Aurora	Personalized Learning	K-8
Academy of Arts & Knowledge	Fort Collins	Arts Integration	K-5
Animas High School	Durango	Project-Based Learning	9-12
Ascent Classical Academy of Douglas County	Lone Tree	Classical	K-12
Ascent Classical Academy of Grand Junction	Grand Junction	Classical	K-10
Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Colorado	Fort Collins	Classical	K-12
Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Denver	Brighton	Classical	K-12
AXIS International Academy	Fort Collins	Language Immersion	PK-6
Battle Rock Charter School**	Cortez	Place-Based Learning	K-6
Caprock Academy	Grand Junction	Classical	K-12
Colorado Early Colleges Aurora	Aurora	Early College	9-12
Colorado Early Colleges Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs	Early College	6-12
Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County	Parker	Early College	9-12
Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins	Fort Collins	Early College	6-12
Colorado Early Colleges Online Campus	Online	Early College	6-12
Colorado Early Colleges Windsor (closed)	Windsor	Early College	K-12
Colorado International Language Academy	Colorado Springs	Language Immersion	K-5
Colorado Springs Charter Academy	Colorado Springs	Core Knowledge	K-8
Community Leadership Academy	Commerce City	Core Knowledge	PK-5
Coperni 3	Colorado Springs	Personalized Learning	K-8
Crown Pointe Academy	Westminster	Core Knowledge	K-8
Global Village Academy Aurora**	Aurora	Language Immersion	K-8
Global Village Academy North	Northglenn	Language Immersion	K-8
Golden View Classical Academy	Golden	Classical	K-12
High Point Academy	Aurora	Wellness	PK-8
High Rockies Community School*	Fairplay	Project-Based Learning	K-7
Kwiyagat Community Academy	Towaoc	Project-Based Learning	K-5
Montessori del Mundo	Aurora	Dual-Language Montessori	PK-7
Monument View Montessori Charter School	Fruita	Montessori	PK-3
Mountain Middle School	Durango	Project-Based Learning	4-8
Mountain Song Community School	Colorado Springs	Waldorf	K-8
New America School Aurora	Aurora	Alternative Education Campus	9-12
New Legacy Charter School	Aurora	Alternative Education Campus	9-12
Prospect Academy	Arvada	Personalized Learning	4-8
Ricardo Flores Magón Academy	Westminster	College Prep	K-8
Ross Montessori School	Carbondale	Montessori	K-8
Salida Montessori Charter School	Salida	Montessori	PK-8
Steamboat Montessori Charter School	Steamboat Springs	Montessori	PK-5
Stone Creek Charter School	Edwards/Gypsum	Core Knowledge	K-8
The Academy of Charter Schools	Westminster	College Prep	PK-12
The Pinnacle Charter School	Federal Heights	Core Knowledge	K-12
University Prep Commerce City	Commerce City	Core Knowledge/College Prep	PK-K
Victory Preparatory Academy High School	Commerce City	Core Knowledge	9-12
Victory Preparatory Academy Middle School	Commerce City	Core Knowledge	6-8
Wildflower Montessori Aurora North	Aurora	Montessori	PK-3
Wildflower Montessori Aurora South	Aurora	Montessori	PK-K
Wildflower Montessori - Grand Valley	Grand Junction	Montessori	PK-3

** = New School in 25-26; ** = Transferred to CSI in 25-26*

Who We Serve

CSI schools seek to offer high-quality programs that are available to all students. Within our traditional school programs, CSI serves higher proportions of students of color, multilingual learners, students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, and students with a 504 plan. And, importantly, CSI continues to increase service to students with special needs. Schools range from 19 (Wildflower Montessori - Aurora North) to 1,921 (The Pinnacle Charter School).





Authorization Updates

The CSI Board is statutorily responsible for considering applications for new, expansion, transfer, and renewal schools. During the 2025-26 school year, the CSI Board made the following authorization decisions:

APPROVED 4 TRANSFER SCHOOLS



- American Legacy Academy
- Ascend College Prep
- Children's Kiva Montessori School
- Vista Charter School



APPROVED 9 RENEWAL SCHOOLS

- Academy of Arts & Knowledge
- Ascent Classical Academy of Grand Junction
- Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Denver
- Colorado International Language Academy
- Global Village Academy North
- Kwiyagat Community Academy
- Mountain Middle School
- Ricardo Flores Magón Academy
- Steamboat Montessori

APPROVED 3 EXPANSIONS

- Colorado International Language Academy (add 6th-8th grades)
- Kwiyagat Community Academy (add 6th grade)
- Prospect Academy (add 3rd grade)



*Colorado Early Colleges Windsor closed at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Photos: Wildflower Montessori Aurora, Ross Montessori, Prospect Academy

Portfolio Outcomes

Nearly two-thirds of CSI students were enrolled in schools with a Performance academic rating in 2025-26.

POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS

PSAT/SAT

CSI schools performed higher than the state average across Evidence-Based Reading and Writing as well as Mathematics across all tested grades.



Strong Graduation Rates

CSI's 4-year graduation rates continue to improve year over year, and 5-, 6-, and 7-year graduation rates remain steady and above the state average. Ascent Classical Academy of Douglas County, Caprock Academy, Golden View Classical Academy, and Victory Prep Academy have 100% 4-year graduation rates.

Improved Dropout Rates

CSI's dropout rates remain lower than the state average. Specifically, dropout rates have improved across students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, minority students, students with disabilities, and multilingual learners.

CSI Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) - New America School Aurora and New Legacy Charter School - have improved their dropout rates to a 4-year low. AECs are defined by statute as schools who have a specialized mission, nontraditional methods of instruction delivery, serve students with severe limitations, and whose student population is comprised of at least 90% "high-risk" students.



Photos: Ascent Classical Academy of Douglas County, New Legacy Charter School

Organizational Highlights

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rebate to Schools

While statute allows CSI to collect 3% of per pupil revenue from authorized schools, CSI strives to operate well below 3% and return unused funds to its schools at the end of the year. This past year, CSI operated on 2% and was therefore able to provide a rebate of $132 per pupil, for a total of ~$2.7M.

~$2.7M

Returned to Schools

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Grants

As state competitive grant opportunities declined, CSI expanded support for schools pursuing private, state, and federal funding opportunities.

CSI schools earned 124 competitive grants totalling $69M, with three BEST awards accounting for $52M. Awards focused on dropout prevention, mental health, literacy, safety, school food, program start-up (both new and expansion), and facilities.

CSI secured 35 awards for the School Facility Assistance Program (SFAP) for over $2M total.

CSI schools were awarded a total of $10.4M from Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) / Great Schools Colorado (GSC).



Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Colorado

Organizational Highlights

DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the past year, the CSI Board, leadership team, staff, and school leaders engaged in a deliberate, multi-stage process to develop CSI's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. The process was facilitated by the National Charter Schools Institute (NCSI).

The process included work sessions, structured reflection, school leader feedback, and ultimately a synthesis into an integrated set of strategic focus areas organized around four goals:

1 Excellence in Authorizing

CSI will authorize with purpose by upholding rigorous expectations, maintaining transparent accountability, and delivering responsive, differentiated support so schools are better equipped to strengthen performance, exercise autonomy, and improve outcomes for students.

2 Expanding Access to High-Quality and Innovative Schools

CSI will expand access to high-quality and innovative charter public school options by cultivating a diverse and sustainable portfolio, prioritizing students and communities that need stronger educational opportunities, and supporting school models that respond to community needs and reimagine what school can be.

3 Removing Barriers and Strengthening Conditions for School Success

CSI will strengthen the conditions for school success by reducing operational burdens, advocating for equitable policies and resources, and building partnerships that allow schools to focus more fully on students, families, and long-term sustainability.

4 Strengthening Student Outcomes Across the Portfolio

CSI does not directly control what happens in every classroom — but believes that rigorous authorizing, transparent accountability, and responsive support create the conditions in which schools are more likely to improve, students are more likely to thrive, and gaps are more likely to narrow. Goal 4 defines CSI's responsibility for advancing these outcomes.

A strategic plan is only as strong as the accountability structures that support it. CSI is committed to ongoing, transparent measurement of progress against the goals and priorities in this plan.

Expanding *What's Possible*

Meeting Schools Where They Are

Schools need different types of support at different points in their development. CSI's tiered support model matches assistance to each school's needs — schools with greater challenges receive more tailored support, while all schools have access to guidance, resources, and technical expertise. In 2025-26, this model shaped support across several areas, including:

Leadership & Governance

CSI strengthened both school and board leadership. School leaders in need of the most support received dedicated executive coaching. CSI also facilitated peer-school relationships, providing leaders with the opportunity to connect with other schools serving similar student populations.

Governing boards — responsible for protecting the school's mission, overseeing performance, and holding leaders accountable — received increased support across all tiers. Every CSI school board was observed at least once, prompting new resources including a checklist and executive session guidance, and CDE trainers and consultants provided more intensive, targeted training where needed.

34
board meetings attended, including all new schools

3
new resources created

Programmatic Support

CSI strengthened systems and practices that connect improvement priorities to classroom practice.



Crisis Prevention

CSI expanded the Crisis Prevention Intervention team to three trainers, with regional trainings to lower barriers to participation.



Literacy Summits

Well-attended regional summits highlighted strong literacy practices; virtual visits with new READ contacts saw 100% attendance.



Safety

CSI's School Safety Specialist connected every new and transfer school with local law enforcement and hosted monthly security roundtables.

Increasing Support for Special Education

CSI's tiered, differentiated approach extends to specific populations as well. CSI schools are serving more students with disabilities, including more students with complex needs. Unlike many district-authorized charter schools, CSI charter public schools are required to offer a full continuum of special education services across all disability categories and need levels.

Funding

CSI prioritizes distributing as much federal IDEA and state ECEA funding directly to schools as possible. When a student with significant needs enrolls unexpectedly, schools can access the High Needs Grant — significantly utilized in 2025-26 — or the CSI Emergency Assistance Fund. These funds help schools provide appropriate services and manage costs that can be especially challenging for smaller schools.



Golden View Classical Academy

Support

CSI staff provide technical assistance, compliance guidance, professional learning, and support in building strong systems for serving students with disabilities. The Special Education team provides schools with a strong foundation in compliance and quality programming, while also tailoring their support and oversight to the unique needs of each school. Staff also work across departments — including expanding support in early childhood programs and training on serving dually identified students (multilingual learners who also qualify for special education services).



Mountain Song Community School

Together, these resources help schools stay focused on a shared goal: ensuring students receive the services and opportunities they need to succeed.

Creating Opportunity for Small Schools

Small schools offer close-knit environments, distinctive models, and public school access in communities with few alternatives — but they face real challenges of scale, from leaders filling multiple roles to facilities and compliance costs spread across few students.

In response, CSI developed a small schools initiative to identify practical solutions, strengthen shared capacity, and rethink how authorizing practices can account for smaller-scale realities.

During 2025-26, this work included:

Insurance & Benefits

Collaborated with partners to explore affordable options for small schools.

Student Information System

Laid the groundwork for a CSI-managed system to reduce the operational and financial burden of implementation.

Professional Development

Provided additional Title II funding to increase small schools' access to high-quality PD.

The goal is sustainable systems that don't compromise what makes these schools valuable to their communities.



High Rockies Community School

Building Capacity Beyond the CSI Portfolio

CSI's role begins with the schools it authorizes, but its systems, expertise, and influence also extend to charter public schools across Colorado and the national authorizing community.

Optimizing Conditions for Innovation

At the National Charter Schools Institute (NCSI) conference, CSI presented a key idea: innovation takes root when authorizers set clear expectations, remove unnecessary barriers, and help schools navigate complex requirements. CSI also received NCSI's Bold by Choice award for strengthening authorizing practices and expanding opportunities for students. CSI's Executive Director and representatives from Kwiyagat Community Academy were also featured on NCSI podcast episodes about innovation in CSI schools and the charter movement.



Shared Systems, Broader Reach

CSI serves in several roles — authorizer, local education agency, administrative unit, School Food Authority, and fiscal agent — each an opportunity to build systems that support schools while maintaining oversight and accountability. Some of these services extend beyond CSI's authorized portfolio.

- **School Nutrition Support:** The CSI School Food Authority helps both CSI- and district-authorized charter schools with federal nutrition requirements, financial management, procurement, menu planning, and operations. Its shared systems and specialized staff fill expertise gaps that small or independent schools often struggle to maintain, while letting schools shape programs around local priorities.
- **Fiscal Agent:** CSI also acts as fiscal agent for schools outside its authorized portfolio, helping them access and manage funding while meeting fiscal and reporting requirements. This can open opportunities for schools that lack the systems to administer certain grants on their own.

Across both roles, this work reflects a sector-wide approach: when schools share infrastructure and expertise, they can direct more attention and resources toward students.

Expanding what's possible means building systems that serve more schools, creating pathways for emerging models, and sharing what we learn with the broader field.

Legislative Highlights

Mill Levy Override Equalization

Since the passage of HB17-1375, which required equitable sharing of local mill levy override revenue with district-authorized charter schools, CSI and its dedicated partners have worked relentlessly to ensure parity for CSI-authorized charter schools. In 2024, we achieved full mill levy equalization, and in 2025, we secured a $5 million increase to the fund. In 2026, we continued to fight to advance funding equity by successfully combating Joint Budget Committee recommendations to cap mill levy equalization and to reduce MLE by 20%.

Funding Formula

As Colorado transitioned to a new school funding formula, charter school funding remained uncertain throughout much of the legislative session. CSI's Finance Team worked closely alongside partners to model potential scenarios and consider implications of various proposals. A late amendment to the School Finance Act will provide charter public schools an additional $71 million statewide next year, with every school receiving at least a 1% year-over-year increase in total program funding.

Reducing Regulatory Burden on Education Providers

CSI worked closely with the Colorado League of Charter Schools to pass HB26-1299: Reducing Regulatory Burden on Education Providers. This bill reduces duplicative, outdated, and burdensome reporting requirements while maintaining accountability and transparency, which frees up time for educators and allows them to focus on what matters most: students.



Global Village Academy North, Colorado International Language Academy, Crown Pointe Academy

Representation

One way in which CSI seeks to support and advocate on behalf of its portfolio of schools is through active engagement in committees, task forces, and working groups. CSI and CSI schools are represented by a variety of CSI staff in over 20 entities. Here are just a few:

- Charter Authorizer ED Community of Practice
- Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers Small Schools Task Force
- Colorado Crisis Education and Response Network
- Colorado Department of Education
  - Accountability Work Group
  - Advisory Council for School Nutrition
  - Charter School Cohort
  - Colorado Educator Preparation Advisory Committee
  - Data Pipeline User's Group
  - Induction Leaders Network
  - Special Education Financial Advisory Committee
  - Special Education Advisory Committee
  - Specific Learning Disability Working Group
  - State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education
  - State of Colorado Procurement Officials
  - Technical Advisory Panel for Longitudinal Growth
- Colorado League of Charter Schools Governmental Affairs Committee
- Committee of Practitioners
- Education Data Advisory Committee
- Facilities Finance Advisory Board
- Mental Health State Advisory Board
- National Association of Charter School Authorizers
- National Charter Schools Institute Epicenter Advisory Group
- State Charter Schools Facilities Incentive Grant Stakeholder Accountability Committee



Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Colorado

Our Board

CSI is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor of Colorado and the Commissioner of Education. The CSI Board is statutorily required to be mission-driven and politically balanced, which ensures steady leadership of our organization and stable oversight of our schools.



Andrew Karow
Board Treasurer



Dr. Brenda Dickhoner
Board Chair



Deborah Hendrix
Board Member



Damion LeeNatali*
Board Member



Liz Howell
Board Member



Kenny Smith
Board Member



Nick Thompson
Board Member



Nicholas Hernandez*
Board Vice Chair



Ross Izard
Board Secretary

*Damion LeeNatali and Nicholas Hernandez completed their terms in 2026. Arkan Haile and Reilly Pharo Carter have been appointed by the Governor to fill the vacant seats.

Our Team

Executive Director
Dr. Terry Croy Lewis

Communications, Data Submissions, & Human Resources Teams
Janet Dinnen, Chief of Staff
Amber Anderson, Data & Systems Specialist
Julie Eddy, Senior Data Submissions Specialist
Ryan Hartung, Senior Data Submissions Specialist
Cherish Trammell, Senior Data Specialist
Sheila Sellers, Data Quality & Audit Specialist
Robin Zook, Student Information System Administrator
Allegra Wenger, Director of Human Resources
Amanda Oberg, Director of Communications & Board Liaison
Raena Vigil, Senior Communications Specialist

Authorization & Accountability Team
Ryan Marks, Chief of Authorizing & Accountability
Stephanie Aragon, Director of School Policy & Compliance
Michael McManus, Authorization & Accountability Manager

Finance & Operations Team
David Sever, Senior Director of Finance
Melissa Allen, Senior Accountant
Art Ford, School Finance Manager
Marcie Robidart, Senior Director of Grants Fiscal & Accounting
Kamina Johnson, Grant Technician
Magaly Mar-Sotero, Grant & Accounting Technician
Emma Post, Senior Grant & Procurement Manager
Shawn Wilkens, Grant Technician
Ilene Agustin, Director of School Nutrition
Maggie Necaise, Senior School Nutrition Specialist
Maggie Smart, School Nutrition Specialist

School Programs Team
Jessica Welch, Chief of School Programs
Betsy Basch, Mental Health Programs Specialist
Paul Cairney, Senior School Safety Specialist
Rachel Franks, English Language Development Coordinator
Kimberly Caplan, Director of Professional Learning & School Programs
Kali Winn, Senior Assessment Specialist
Willyn Webb, Early Learning & Induction Coordinator
Matt Hudson, Assistant Director of Special Education
Lora Bonney, Special Education Coordinator
Karen Davidson, Special Education Coordinator
Donna Day, Special Education Coordinator
Cait Eggleston, Special Education Coordinator
Nick Stachokus, Special Education Coordinator

CSI bid farewell to Lynnette Steinhoff and Brian Printz.

Looking Ahead

Implementing the Strategic Plan

With the adoption of CSI's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, our focus turns to implementation and measuring progress. CSI will track progress through annual organizational goals, Board oversight, school leader feedback, student outcome data, staff culture and climate measures, and regular reviews of the plan. To inform implementation and identify opportunities for advocacy, CSI is also working with a consultant to gather input from students, families, and school leaders through focus groups.

Refining Tiers of Support

CSI already tailors its approach by offering tiered supports, providing more intensive assistance to schools with greater needs. We have expanded our tiered model beyond academics to include governance, leadership, grants, finance, and operations and supported all departments in adopting a tiered framework. In 2026-27, all departments will implement or refine their tiered approach to ensure CSI schools are receiving the types of support most aligned to their identified needs.

Addressing Areas of Need

Nearly a quarter of schools in CSI's portfolio serve fewer than 100 students, and microschools continue to grow. CSI will continue to explore ways to best support microschools and will participate in the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) task force examining the authorization of microschools.

As interest in transferring to CSI continues to grow, we are focused on refining how we welcome and integrate schools into our portfolio. In 2026-27, CSI will build on lessons learned from recent transfers to improve onboarding, clarify expectations, and identify opportunities to better support schools throughout the transition. Our goal is to create a more consistent and effective process that sets schools up for long-term success while recognizing their individual circumstances and needs.

Photos: Caprock Academy, Colorado Early Colleges Douglas County North







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Expanding Frontiers in Public Education

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