



Colorado Charter School Institute

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For Immediate Release

12/18/17

CSI Schools Earn 'Performance with Distinction' Rating

Denver, CO 12.18.17 – Ten Charter School Institute (CSI) schools were recently accredited with the rating of 'Performance with Distinction' by the CSI Board of Directors. This special designation is saved for CSI schools performing in the top quarter of the state based on 2016-2017 academic performance.

CSI schools earning this rating include:

Animas High School – Durango, Colorado

[Animas High School](#) serves over 250 students in grades 9-12. Approaching education through an innovative, student-centered, project-based curriculum, Animas High School students receive a hands on approach to critical thinking and making real world connections. Based on its 2016-2017 performance, Animas High School ranked in the 79th percentile among Colorado schools.

Colorado Early Colleges Network

[The Colorado Early Colleges \(CEC\) Network](#) – created by former Senator Keith King – provides students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to start working on college-level courses as soon as they are college ready, allowing students to earn a combination of high school and college credits as they pursue a high school diploma and an Associate degree or higher. Starting with one school in Colorado Springs, the network has now grown to four schools across the state: CEC-Fort Collins, CEC-Parker, Colorado Springs Early Colleges and CEC-Aurora.

Colorado Springs Early Colleges – Colorado Springs, Colorado

[Colorado Springs Early Colleges \(CSEC\)](#) is the first school in the Colorado Early Colleges network, created in 2008 and now serving over 650 students. Due to the dedication and hard work of staff and students, CSEC has achieved a rating of 'Performance with Distinction' three years in a row. Based on its 2016-2017 performance, CSEC ranked in the 86th percentile among Colorado schools.

Colorado Early Colleges – Fort Collins – Fort Collins, Colorado

[Colorado Early Colleges-Fort Collins](#) continues to increase its student enrollment, now serving over 900 students in grades 6-12. Replicating from the successful Colorado Springs network location in 2012, CEC-Fort Collins offers college-level courses throughout twelve different college campuses and through the extension of its middle school offers more students an earlier start to college and workforce readiness preparation. In 2018, CEC-Fort Collins will see 78% of its seniors graduate with an Associate Degree at no cost to attending families. Based on its 2016-2017 performance, CEC-Fort Collins ranked in the 92nd percentile among Colorado schools.

Colorado Early Colleges – Parker – Parker, Colorado

[Colorado Early Colleges – Parker](#) is a replication of the Colorado Springs and Fort Collins network locations. Since its opening in 2014, CEC-Parker has seen steady increases in enrollment and now serves over 480 students. CEC-Parker has adopted a Post-secondary and Workforce Readiness Guarantee in English, reading and math for every student. Upon graduation, CEC-Parker students will be ready to pursue their post-secondary goals without remediation. Based on its 2016-2017 performance, CEC-Parker ranked in the 84th percentile among Colorado schools.

Colorado Springs Charter Academy – Colorado Springs, Colorado

[Colorado Springs Charter Academy](#) serves close to 500 students in grades K-8. One of the first Colorado Charter School Institute schools to open in 2005, Colorado Springs Charter Academy continues to serve its students with high academic standards. Maintaining an accreditation of “Performance” or higher for the last three years in a row, Colorado Springs Charter Academy adds a fourth year to this trend for its 2016-2017 performance, ranking in the 86th percentile among Colorado schools.

Stone Creek Charter School – Avon, Colorado

[Stone Creek Charter School](#), founded in 2006 and implementing a Core Knowledge education model, serves roughly 300 students in grades K-8. Stone Creek Charter School has maintained an accreditation rating of ‘Performance with Distinction’ two years in a row and based on its 2016-2017 performance, ranked in the 83rd percentile among Colorado schools.

Thomas MacLaren State Charter School – Colorado Springs, Colorado

[Thomas MacLaren School](#) is a classical school in Colorado Springs serving over 450 students in grades 6-12. Features that make this school unique include its single-gender classrooms, focus on primary source texts as opposed to textbooks, and a performance-based program that includes participation in the school-wide orchestra program. Thomas MacLaren will expand its successful model to include a K-5 elementary program in the 2018-2019 school year. Based on its 2016-2017 performance, Thomas MacLaren State Charter School ranked in the 95th percentile among Colorado schools.

Two Rivers Community School – Glenwood Springs, Colorado

[Two Rivers Community School](#) continues to have a steady increase in enrollment, now serving close to 230 students in grades K-8. Opening its doors in 2014, this school is based on two learning designs: Place-based and Project-based Learning with an influence on Language Immersion. This will be Two Rivers Community Schools 2nd year to receive a ‘Performance with Distinction’ rating and based on its 2016-2017 performance, ranked in the 75th percentile among Colorado schools.

Victory Preparatory Academy – Commerce City, Colorado

[Victory Preparatory Academy](#) serves middle and high school students in Commerce City and is an expansion of a successful elementary program, Community Leadership Academy. The now K-12 schools serve over 900 students, 86% who qualify for free or reduced lunch, 94% who identify as Hispanic or Latino, and up to 74% who are English Language learners – percentages higher than those of the geographic district. Victory Preparatory Academy offers a no-excuses environment, delivering a liberal arts education with an emphasis on STEM as well as Business and Entrepreneurship where students attain the skills they need to be successful learners. Based on its 2016-2017 performance, Victory Preparatory Academy High School ranked in the 97th percentile among Colorado schools and Victory Preparatory Academy Middle School ranked in the 93rd percentile among Colorado schools.

"CSI is proud to have these 10 schools earning the 'Performance with Distinction' rating, placing them in the top 25% of schools in Colorado. Earning a rating of 'Performance with Distinction' not only shows each school's dedication and hard work, but is a strong indicator of each school's viability and sustainability," CSI Executive Director, Dr. Terry Croy Lewis.

Charter schools authorized by CSI are annually evaluated using a robust and transparent evaluation system. This system incorporates all measures included in the state's school performance framework—including academic achievement, academic growth, and postsecondary and workforce readiness. In addition, CSI's evaluation system includes additional measures of academic performance and considers a school's financial and organizational performance.

CSI's rating scale mirrors the ratings issued by the state (Turnaround, Priority Improvement, Improvement, and Performance). However, CSI's rating scale breaks down the 'Performance' rating to include a 'Performance with Distinction' rating that allows further differentiation of school performance as nearly 70% of schools in the state were accredited with a 'Performance' rating. CSI schools receive the 'Performance with Distinction' rating if they are in the top 25% of schools in the state academically and are performing well financially and operationally.

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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 Durango to Steamboat Springs, Fruita to Calhan and serving over 17,500 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: <https://www.facebook.com/CSIColorado/>.

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