

LEAGUE & CHARTER SUCCESSES 2023

League Benefits

League Membership: **91%**
Member Satisfaction: **93%**

**ONLINE, TV,
& RADIO,** Fall & Spring
campaigns

\$750,000

10+ Learning Communities / month

10+ Cohorts meeting regularly

29 Public Relations Wins

5 Monthly Virtual Town Halls

Charter Facts

15.6% Of all Colorado public school students attend charters

137,000+ Colorado's public charter school students. That's **50% more** than Colorado's single largest school district (DPS).

#2 Colorado has the nation's second-best public charter school laws
(National Alliance for Public Charter Schools)

269 
Number of charter schools in Colorado, a **51% INCREASE** over the past decade

Seven of the top 10 public high schools in Colorado are charter schools
(US News & World Report, 2022)



2023 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES SUMMARY

Historic Charter Funding Increases

The School Finance Act, **SB23-287**, includes historic wins, including:

Full Funding Equity for CSI Schools

We were finally able to secure a commitment for full funding equity for CSI schools and the more than 20,000 students they serve. This means an additional **\$10 million** in funding towards Colorado Charter School Institute equalization this year leading to full equity in 2024-2025.

Another **\$5.3 million** in funding towards Charter School Capital Construction

A **10.6% increase** in per-pupil funding

An additional **\$40.2 million in SPED** funding

HB23-1025 (Charter School Application Timelines)

has been signed into law. It changes the standard application window under statute to 18 months instead of 12 months so that schools can still open in the year they plan to even if they run into appeals and/or other challenges.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES 2023

The Details

Full Funding Equity for CSI Schools

We were finally able to secure a commitment for full funding equity for CSI schools and the more than 20,000 students they serve.

Why is this so important? It's a testament to our collective resolution and perseverance. Ever since HB1375 passed in 2017, we've been fighting alongside CSI to get legislators to devote as many resources as possible to the CSI equalization fund that that bill created. The fact that we've moved from \$0 that first year to full equity beginning in 2024-25 (estimated at \$49M) is a significant accomplishment in a relatively short period of time – and one we should all be incredibly proud of.

Secondly, this is a fundamental equity issue. No public school student deserves to have their education significantly underfunded simply because of the type of public school they attend, and yet that's exactly what's been happening for CSI students for many years now. That will no longer be the case beginning in 2024-25 because of this accomplishment.

Finally – and perhaps most importantly – if we want Colorado to remain one of the healthiest charter ecosystems in the country, CSI equalization is a critical component of making sure that happens, because right now there's no upward pressure for a district to do right by its charters. They know that no matter what they do, most charters will have little choice but to remain with them because of the funding disparity a potential move to CSI represents.



Historic Charter Funding Increases

Among other changes, this year's School Finance Act accomplishes the following for our schools:

Another **\$5.3 million** in funding towards Charter School Capital Construction. This increases the Charter School Capital Construction Fund to \$43.9 million, up from its current level of \$38.6 million.

We have successfully increased the fund by more than 500% since just 2014.

An additional **\$10 million** in funding towards CSI equalization. **This will triple the equalization funding** available to CSI schools from two years ago.

A **10.6% increase** in per-pupil funding from last year. This increase will raise our state's average PPR to its **highest level ever (\$10,614)** next school year.

An additional **\$40.2 million in SPED**

funding. It will reimburse schools \$6,000 for every Tier B student next year and then calls for Tier B funding to increase yearly by inflation after that.

Fending Off Harmful Proposals

Sometimes just as important as the victories we achieve are the harmful proposals we're able to evade. Several of these came forward this year on topics as varied and diverse as **accountability** and **discipline**. League efforts were central to ensuring the worst of these ideas weren't adopted into law, and instead task forces were established in many cases to delve into these topics in more depth during the interim.

Charter school "public entity" status has been clarified.

In the past, uncertainty about whether charter schools were eligible for the same beneficial exemptions as other public schools has created undue confusion. Clarifying provisions related to this, included in this year's School Finance Act, will help avoid uncertainty in the future.

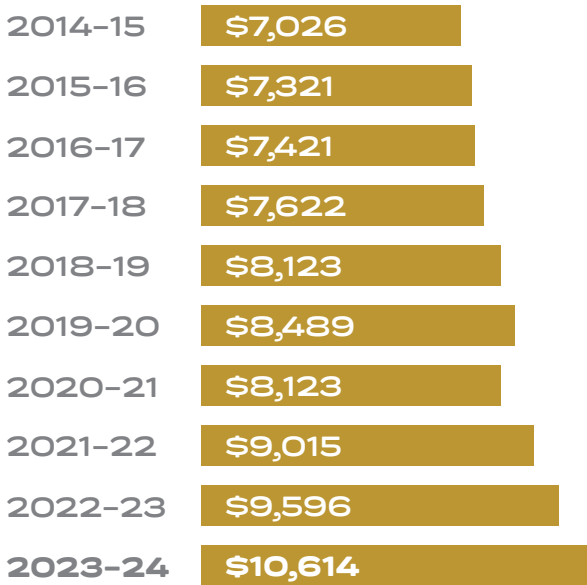
2023 CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRESS

51%

Members reporting that funding and funding equity for charter schools should be top League policy priorities.

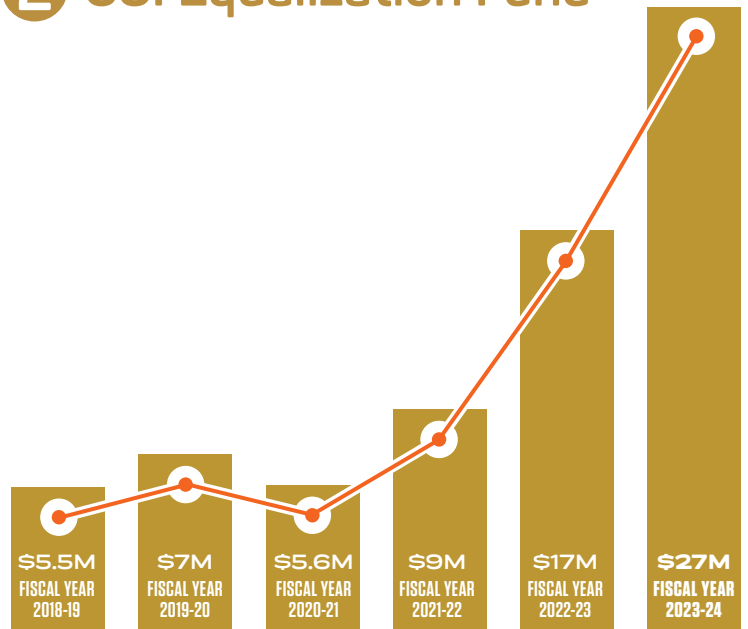
Here are three datasets from the last few years that demonstrate our track record.

1 School PPR in Colorado



Percentage of increase over ten years: **52%**

2 CSI Equalization Fund



3 Charter School Capital Construction Fund

Overall growth between 2014 and 2024 represents more than a 500% increase.

