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# GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO

Growth | Quality | Choice

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Welcome to the December Great Schools Colorado Newsletter:

## A Year of Momentum, Milestones, and Meaningful Impact

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to express our sincere gratitude to every charter leader, educator, board member, authorizer, and partner who has fueled progress across Colorado this year. Together, we strengthened opportunities for students and set the stage for even more growth in 2026.

### 2025: Our Year in Review

#### 🚀 A Strong Launch for Great Schools Colorado

- Successfully onboarded [\*\*15 New & Expansion subgrantees\*\*](#) serving communities statewide.
- Welcomed [\*\*Five Continuation schools\*\*](#), bringing the **total Great Schools Colorado CSP portfolio to 20 active subgrantees**.
- Facilitated budget readiness, onboarding, and reimbursement workflows supporting smooth fiscal starts.
- Expanded access to strategic financing through [\*\*Alpine Bank\*\*](#) line-of-credit partnerships.

#### 🤝 Learning Communities Building Stronger Systems

- [\*\*GSC-CSP Prospect Cohort\*\*](#) launched — supporting new, replication, and expansion charter projects through monthly guidance aligned to upcoming CSP grant cycles (2025–2029).
- [\*\*Business & Operations Networking\*\*](#) Cohort launched successfully with statewide participation.

- New [Charter School Board Governance Playbook](#) and updated [Board Training Modules](#) released — providing boards with practical tools, case studies, and on-demand learning to strengthen governance and oversight across Colorado schools.

## **Technical Assistance Designed for Impact**

Throughout the year, schools engaged with specialized partners delivering mission-critical support:

- Lumen Impact Group — budget development and financial compliance.
- National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) — Charter School Authorizing sessions at our 2025 Annual Conference.
- Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) — authorizer capacity and aligned oversight.
- National Charter Schools Institute — School Quality Reviews and improvement planning.
- SchoolOps & Afton — strengthening school finance, operations, and sustainability.

*[Applications are now open](#) for the [Colorado Operations Leader Fellowship](#), a five-month professional learning program beginning in February 2026 led by SchoolOps for charter school operations professionals across Colorado.*

- [Leadership Institute & Colorado Charter School Institute \(CSI\)](#) — launching the Foundations of Charter School Leadership and Administration program to support charter school leaders, particularly those in start-up schools, through charter-specific professional development, coaching, and state-aligned administrator induction.

These partnerships helped schools move from planning to implementation with clarity, compliance, and confidence.

## **Supplemental Funding Secured**

Despite federal uncertainty this fall, Colorado schools remain positioned to fully access critical Great Schools Colorado investments — protecting resources

connected to growth, access, and family choice.

## **Celebrating the Work in Our Schools**

From Classical and Montessori expansions to innovative project-based learning models, Great Schools Colorado subgrantees are:

- Increasing equitable access across districts,
- Expanding high-demand programming, and
- Innovating to meet community needs.

Your momentum is directly improving student opportunity — and we celebrate every step forward.

### **Looking Ahead to 2026**

#### **We are energized by what's next:**

- Budget amendments resume in January.
- Continued reimbursement support and monitoring.
- New Technical Assistance offerings aligned to spring implementation and quality outcomes.
- Statewide engagement opportunities, including:
  -  [2026 Annual Conference](#) | February 26–27,
  -  [Quarterly Ops & Finance Cohort](#), and
  -  School Quality Reviews advancing improvement at scale.

#### [Technical Assistance Pipeline Survey – Now Open](#)

Schools preparing for future growth can complete the brief survey to be considered for **CSP-funded support** that strengthens leadership capacity, organizational health, and long-term sustainability. Questions? Contact **Bill Knous** at [growth@coloradoleague.org](mailto:growth@coloradoleague.org).

#### [\*\*Register for the 2026 Annual Conference\*\*](#)

Join charter leaders statewide on February 26–27, 2026 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center.

Special access for Great Schools Colorado Subgrantee schools. To register, visit the Annual Conference Registration page and click “Book Now.” Log in (if prompted), choose your specific ticket type, and enter your discount code at checkout:

- **Authorizers:** Authorizers-AC26
- **GSC Sub-Grantees:** GSCSubgrantees-AC26
- **GSC TA Pipeline Cohort:** GSCPipeline-AC26 ([survey completion required](#))

Apply your code, follow the prompts, and you’ll receive a confirmation email once your registration is complete.

## Thank You

Thank you for your partnership, patience, collaboration, and commitment this year. We see the hard work behind every milestone — and we’re honored to support you in this journey.

Wishing you a restorative and joyful winter break. **Forward together into a great year ahead.**

Warmly,

**The Great Schools Colorado Team**

**Dawna, Bright, and Tanesha**

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*The League offices will be closed for winter break: Dec 23–Jan 4*

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