

# MEM

An introduction to  
the League and the  
services and benefits  
that we offer  
to our members



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

# BER

# BOOK

# 2025



# WELCOME BACK TO THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Welcome back to another year of collective action toward a brighter future for Colorado students and families. We're celebrating our movement as we remain laser-focused on strengthening the charter school ecosystem. We hope that this allows you to remain focused on your most important job – your school and your students.

**Last year saw more wins in the legislature in the form of funding and facilities.** We played a pivotal role in protecting charter schools at both the State Board of Education and the U.S. Supreme Court. And the League won the CSP program for the state, bringing in \$68M for Colorado charters, which opened up CDE to then win \$33M in federal facilities funds, meaning that collectively over \$100M in additional resources are available to Colorado charters statewide.

However, headwinds also came at us in various forms. Challenges to funding, numerous changes at the federal level, declining enrollment, and the final year of Governor Polis' tenure loom large for the future.

In the midst of all these wins and challenges, we again want to assure you that we are continually exploring new ways to increase our value and enhance our support to you.

**As the new school year kicks off, I wanted to share with you some of the ways the League continues to enhance its services** to better serve our schools, leaders, and communities. But if there are other topics or priorities you think we should focus on, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know.

First, we're continuing with our Town Hall series, regional meetings, and school visits by our staff around the state. Reach out to schedule a visit from League staff or with your elected officials. With several new representatives, our Member Council also continues its great work of giving voice to the varied needs and interests of Colorado's collective charter school community.

Second, we continue to escalate our work in grassroots advocacy. Through our sister 501c4 organization CLCS Action, we are working to be more influential in local and state elections, and we continue to build up momentum toward our legislative efforts by spending over \$2 on advocacy for every \$1 received in membership dues. Imagine the force we could be if we were more effective at activating the 136,000+ families across the state currently benefiting from public charter schools.

Third, we've successfully launched Great Schools Colorado, the federal CSP grant program. This five-year program has already made continuation and first-year awards and is set to open its next competition. One of the most valuable components of the program is the technical assistance generated for sub-grantees, which is also freely available for all charter schools in the state. So please take advantage. For example, the new charter school board training playbook and video series will be available soon for free on our website.

But even with all these efforts aligned with our [Strategic Plan](#), it is time to ensure that our ongoing work continues to focus on you, our members, and how we can help you succeed in the areas that help you deliver on your mission.

If you're new to the League, welcome. If you're one of our long-standing members, thank you for your continued commitment. Here's to an incredible 2025-26 school year moving forward together.



Best,

Dan Schaller, President  
Colorado League of Charter Schools



# DEFENDING & ADVANCING CHARTERS 2025

Despite a \$1.2B state budget deficit in 2025, the Colorado League successfully advocated for significant advancements in charter school funding.

These crucial wins include a \$250M increase to the state's Moral Obligation Program, \$5M in additional CSI Equalization funding, a 3.6% increase in FY26 Per-Pupil Revenue (PPR), and a \$4M PERA true-up benefiting Denver charters.

Simultaneously, the League actively protected the charter sector from potential threats, including an anti-charter majority on the State Board and proposed reductions to per-pupil, at-risk, and part-time enrichment program funding.

Furthermore, the League actively safeguarded charter autonomy by ensuring major anti-charter legislation did not advance and by taking an important first step towards regulatory relief through a streamlined UIP process. We also passed legislation that strengthens AECs out of recognition of the outsized role charters play in serving Colorado's AEC students.

These efforts to bolster funding and defend against detrimental policies contributed to the continued growth and strength of Colorado's charter sector. In the past year, charter enrollment increased by nearly 1,000 students to more than 15,000 additional students since 2017 (a 13% increase) – while non-charter enrollment has declined by 6%.

## The League, Working for you

League Membership: **88%**

Member Satisfaction: **92%**

**2x**

League advocacy spending is **two times** the League Member dues: making your investment go further.

**15**

Professional Cohorts

**28**

Public Relations Wins

**15+**

Town Halls

**3+**

Major Events

## Charters by the Numbers

**15.5%**

Of all Colorado public school students attend charters (PK-12)

**136,218**

Colorado's public charter school students. That's **51%** more than Colorado's single largest school district (DPS).

**+13**

Colorado charter school students gain **13 extra days** of math instruction per year and **15 extra days** of reading instruction compared to non-charter students.

**+15**

(Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University, 2023)

**262**



Number of charter schools in Colorado, a **22.4% INCREASE** over the past decade

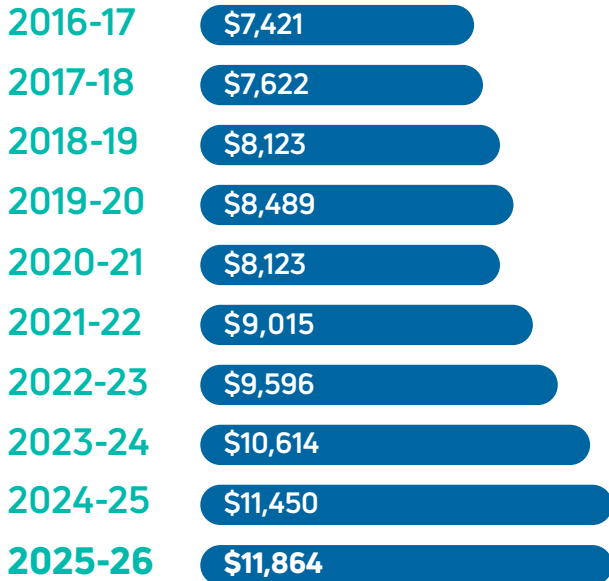
# 2024-2025 CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRESS

# 51%

Members reporting that funding, growth, and enrollment issues are top concerns and priorities on the most recent League Member survey.

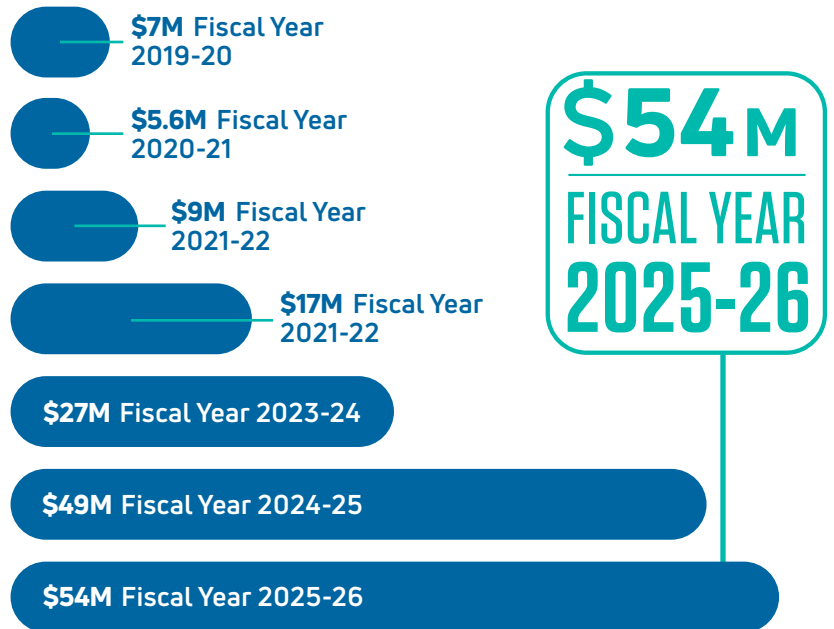
Here are four items that demonstrate our track record to help our members' growth and funding.

## 1 School PPR in Colorado



Percentage of increase over ten years: **60%**

## 2 CSI Equalization Fund



## 3 Moral Obligation Program

**+\$250 M** → **\$1B**

A single-year increase of \$250 million, to a total of \$1 billion for schools.

## 4 Great Schools Colorado (CSP) and SFIG

In Fall of 2024, the League won a federal five-year CSP award of \$68 million for new, expanding, and replicating charter schools in Colorado and was instrumental in helping CDE win the State Facilities Incentives Grant (SFIG).

# \$100M

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is a full-service, non-profit membership organization offering a variety of benefits including: legislative advocacy, performance management, professional development, governance trainings, group purchasing programs, teacher effectiveness services, new school development support, employment and facilities consultation, marketing and communications assistance, and more.

**Benefits of membership include:**

## Advocacy

- State and federal advocacy, full-time, and year-round
- Regional advocacy and community engagement support
- Access to Legislative Summaries (the League's one-pager resources for school leaders)

## Resources, Support, & Guidance

- Guidance, support, and technical assistance for new school developing groups and members wishing to replicate or expand their current school
- Online Resource Center
- On-Demand Webinars
- Access to information, resources, best practices, and answers to charter-related questions through dedicated staff
- Access to our Charter Marketplace for vendor directories and discounted, pre-contracted pricing
- Unlimited job postings on the League's Jobs Board
- Newsletters and communication
- League Staff School Visits

## Convenings

- Member Learning Communities to bring together a group of people with similar challenges (based on school role) to build connections and share in problem-solving around the relevant issues
- Discounted access to our major events, including our Annual Conference, and Leadership Summit
- FREE: Advocacy Day and Annual Finance Seminar
- Town Halls
- Regional Convenings of school leaders, business managers, and board members

**Read more at:**  
[coloradoleague.org/about/membership.html](https://coloradoleague.org/about/membership.html)



## Consultancy & Coaching Services (discounted pricing for members)

Trainings, consulting, coaching and other services are available through our School Services Department to support you, your team, or your entire school or network, including:

- Academic & Instructional Support
- Exceptional Students
- Social Emotional Learning
- Human Resources and Talent
- Facilities and Finance
- School Operations
- Governance and Boards
- Enrollment Support: Marketing and Communications
- Health and Wellness
- Regional Advocacy
- Community Engagement
- Professional Development Opportunities
- School Quality Reviews

**Please refer to the [School Services](#) section of our website**

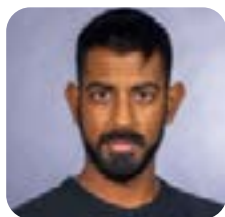
### League Member Quality Standards & Supports

MQSS began in 2023-2024 school year and is instrumental in creating a new structure and system internal to the League that, over a four-year timeline, allows for more intensive support and accountability in the case of chronically underperforming schools. Please visit this page on our website to read more about MQSS: [coloradoleague.org/about/mqss.html](https://coloradoleague.org/about/mqss.html)

# LEAGUE STAFF



**Tanesha Bell**  
Project Director  
CSP, CLCS



**Kim Chetty**  
Associate Director,  
Data and Systems,  
CLCS



**Kyle DeBeer**  
VP Civic Affairs/Ex-  
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CLCS Action



**Prateek Dutta**  
VP Policy,  
CLCS Action



**Caymin Harper**  
Director of Events,  
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**Dan Schaller**  
President, CLCS



**Dawna Taylor**  
Chief of Staff / VP  
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CLCS



**Karolina Villagrana**  
Director of School  
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**Support Staff**



**Kim Daly**  
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**Lori Ventimiglia**  
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**Rainey Wikstrom**  
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# SCHOOL SERVICES

The Colorado League of Charter Schools offers a full spectrum of services designed to strengthen every aspect of school operations and student success. From academics and exceptional education for diverse learners to health, wellness, and talent development, we provide resources and expertise to help schools foster positive cultures, improve outcomes, and maximize potential. Our team also supports boards and governance, facilities and finance, and enrollment and communications—ensuring schools have the tools to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition, the League guides schools through growth opportunities, including starting, expanding, or replicating a charter, and offers **School Quality Reviews** (SQR) to drive continuous improvement. With decades of experience and a deep commitment to equity, innovation, and excellence, our services empower charter schools to operate effectively, build strong communities, and deliver exceptional education to all students. [Learn about all the League's School Services offerings.](#)

## School Quality Reviews

### Driving Higher Levels of Success

The League is committed to helping schools reach higher levels of student performance and overall operational success, an objective that can be achieved with a [School Quality Review](#) (SQR). This evidence-based, objective, and triangulated body of evidence is designed to drive systemic continuous improvement within each school's unique model and mission.

Spending three days onsite, our team of education professionals will utilize The Colorado Department of Education's four domains of "Rapid School Improvement +2" as their primary assessment instruments. This includes (1) Leadership for Rapid Improvement; (2) Talent Management; (3) Instructional Transformation; (4) Culture and Climate Shift; (5) Board Governance; and (6) School Finance. Data is collected and triangulated through stakeholder interviews, classroom observations, and document review.

SQR deliverables include: (1) a fully completed assessment rubric with evidence; (2) an executive summary of strengths; and (3) recommended next steps for school improvement. After this body of evidence is presented, it can be partnered with student outcome data to build a precise and effective school improvement plan. Our team is also available to facilitate using the SQR to create and implement detailed and actionable school improvement plans to improve student performance.

## Free Member School Services

The League offers a wide-variety of free services to all member schools, including:

- Ongoing access to information, best practices and crisis support.
- **Learning Communities** (cohorts) bring together peers from across the state to discuss current topics in specific areas, including board and governance, leadership, new school development, marketing and more.
- A **Resource Library** with guidelines, samples, checklists, and on-demand webinars.
- Access to our **Member Marketplace** to find vendors to assist you with projects, systems, services, or other needs.
- **Unlimited job postings** on the League's website. [View jobs](#) // [Post jobs](#)
- League Staff Site Visits (contact [members@coloradoleague.org](mailto:members@coloradoleague.org) to request a school visit from League Staff).
- For more information, please visit: [coloradoleague.org/about/membership.html](https://coloradoleague.org/about/membership.html)



# POLICY & LEGISLATION

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is a leading voice for charter schools at the Capitol and beyond, working to ensure fair funding, equitable access to programs and facilities, and the preservation of school autonomy. Our advocacy efforts span local, state, and federal levels, combining direct policy work with grassroots community engagement to build a powerful collective voice for Colorado's charter movement. [Read about all of our advocacy work here.](https://coloradoleague.org/advocacy.html) (coloradoleague.org/advocacy.html)

Through an experienced in-house policy team and trusted partners, we engage with lawmakers, state leaders, and education agencies to advance a policy agenda focused on equity, accountability, and opportunity. Each legislative session, we advocate to strengthen charter school law, improve authorizing practices, and protect the flexibility and innovation that make charter schools thrive, all while equipping schools with the tools to engage their communities and advocate effectively for the future of charter education.

## Legislative Matters

### Stay Informed

Colorado's legislative session runs January through May each year, a period during which we keep the charter school community and local advocates apprised of current developments at the Capitol, including major public policy and electoral happenings. Keep your pulse on the legislative matters affecting the education sector, including public charter schools.



## Annual Policy Agenda

Each fall, we collaborate with our Governmental Affairs Committee and Board of Directors to unveil a set of legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Seeking input from our member schools, we carefully consider their feedback on these priorities and put our agenda into action during the subsequent legislative session.

As we embark on the next legislative session, we are committed to advancing policies that empower charter schools, foster educational excellence, and provide families with the public school options that best meet their children's needs.

Read our full legislative agenda which covers topics including funding equity, facilities access and affordability, authorizing consistency, autonomy and flexibility, and other critical issues. [Read the 2025 policy agenda.](#)

## Legislative Matters Newsletter

The League offers regular updates on Capitol developments that could have an impact on charter schools. Our Legislative Matters e-newsletter keeps you informed about key developments affecting charter schools. The newsletter provides timely updates from inside the Capitol and what it means for charters.

[Sign up here.](#)

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

The League empowers charter school communities to advocate effectively at the local level by building strong grassroots networks and fostering positive public perceptions of charters. We provide tools and support for engaging local elected officials, addressing policy challenges, and amplifying school voices. Through our [Act for Charters Today \(ACT\) Advocacy Network](#), families, staff, and community supporters gain the knowledge, skills, and influence to champion their own schools while strengthening the charter movement statewide.

## Spread the Word

Help us grow the ACT network! Share ACT with others in your community, including a newsletter blurb, a social media post, and a QR code—contact us at [advocacy@coloradoleague.org](mailto:advocacy@coloradoleague.org) for details.

## CHARTER SCHOOL CHAMPIONS | 2025-26

### Become a Student Voice for Colorado's Charter Schools

#### [Nominate a Student Today](#)

Virtual Monthly Sessions | October 2025 – April 2026

### What is the Charter Champions Program?

Charter Champions is an advocacy training program for a diverse group of charter high school students who aspire to be leaders in their community. Champions will define what it means to be a student leader by collaborating with their peers and promoting a culture of excellence. As a Charter Champion, students will:

- Represent their school and community,
- Engage in monthly virtual advocacy trainings,
- Complete "Advocacy Asks" that support real change, and
- Receive the tools, connections, and confidence to advocate effectively.

### Who Should You Nominate?

We're looking for high school students who are:

- Interested in leadership in their school, and
- Interested in developing their advocacy skills to benefit their community.



*The League's Hall of Fame and Charter Champions 2023*

### Program Details

- When: Monthly virtual sessions from October 2025 to April 2026 (Dates and times TBD)
- Perk: \$100 gift card
- Students get:
  - Valuable leadership training that can be used in their professional careers,
  - An understanding of charter school basics in the local and national context, and
  - The tools to make their voices be heard by all the institutions that serve them.

### Why Nominate?

- Amplify Student Voices: Give students the opportunity to be heard where decisions are made.
- Build Future Leaders: Help students connect with peers statewide and grow as advocates.
- Shape Education Together: Empower students to contribute to the future of Colorado's public education.

### Nominate a Student Today!

If you have any questions or would like further information, send an email to [champions@coloradoleague.org](mailto:champions@coloradoleague.org).



ANNUAL EVENTS



**Leadership Summit**  
October 10, 2025  
The Ritz-Carlton, Denver  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm MDT

**forward** →  
**2025**

  
COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS



**CHARTER SCHOOL  
ADVOCACY DAY**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM**  
**COLORADO STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**  
**FREE**

**'26**

**The Colorado Charter Schools  
Annual Conference**  
February 25-27, 2026  
Denver Marriott Tech Center

**TOGETHER**  
**2026**

*"If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together."  
— African proverb*

  
COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS



# CONVENINGS

## Learning Communities

### Find your peer cohort

Our Learning Communities are specialized cohorts led by League staff and open to all who seek support in areas critical for sustaining high-quality charter schools. Network around key areas and meet regularly with peers and thought leaders in the larger community.

Join a cohort today and start exploring current topics and critical themes within a supportive community and network of experts. Each learning community includes a discussion board for sharing valuable information and posing questions to the larger group, as well as an archive of helpful resources.

[Learn more.](#)



## Regional Gatherings

### Join Charter School Leaders for a League-Hosted Happy Hour

Join your peers at an upcoming Regional Happy Hour hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools! Our regional gatherings offer a chance to connect with other charter leaders from around the state, helping you build your network, share challenges, and learn from your neighbors. It also helps you learn about the successes and the supports available to you, either through your peer network or through League staff. Keep track of these regional offerings through the League's calendar on our [website here](#).



## Town Halls

### Virtual Convenings

The League consistently derives great value from hosting Town Halls with its membership. Featuring experts in a wide variety of fields, each webinar focuses on providing school leaders and decision-makers with current information on relevant topics to keep them educated and informed.

These virtual meetings are generally held at 10:00 AM on the third Friday of every other month from September through May and include regular updates from League staff with the opportunity to ask questions. Recordings are also available if you can't attend at that time. [Learn more or register here.](#)



# MATERIALS

## Charter School Board Governance Playbook

Developed by the League, the Charter School Board Governance Playbook is the essential resource for new and existing charter school board members and school leaders to assist them in governing their school. This is the accompanying book to the new online video training at the League's Learning Management System. You can find the playbook and the training on the website. [Playbook](#) // [Training](#)



## STEP UP - A Guide to School Marketing

The League's guide to enrollment and marketing is a foundational piece of collateral for new and growing schools to lean on as they develop their brand and their enrollment practices. In today's competitive environment with every school focusing on ensuring that students are a good fit, make sure that you have built your own intentional pathway for families to understand what makes your school special. This guide can help you get there.

[Learn more.](#)



# COMMUNICATIONS & PROMOTION

Visit our social media and websites to stay up to date on the League's news, events, happenings, etc.

## Leadership Summit

October 10, 2025  
The Ritz-Carlton, Denver  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm MDT

# forward→ 2025



 COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS



## Welcome back — August MOVE 🍎

Good morning,

This month's MOVE kicks off the school year with a message from League President Dan Schaller, celebrating student success and highlighting new opportunities for member engagement. You'll meet three new charter schools opening this fall, hear how one small rural school embraced ASL to support a kindergartner, and learn how advocacy is inspiring the next generation of leaders. Plus, we welcome a new board member, highlight a [Digital Safety Summit](#), and open the call for [Annual Conference 2026 workshop proposals](#).

## Social

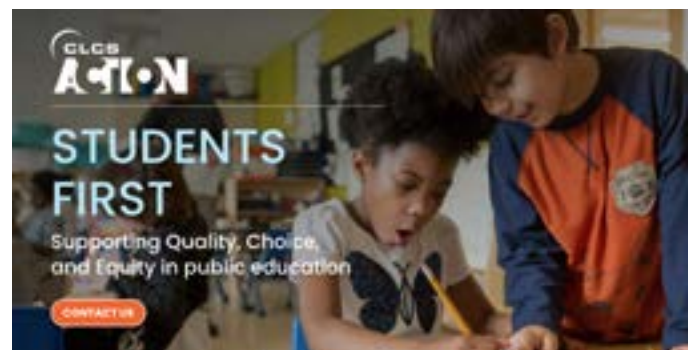
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ColoradoCharterSchool](http://www.facebook.com/ColoradoCharterSchool)  
**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/company/colorado-league-of-charter-schools](http://www.linkedin.com/company/colorado-league-of-charter-schools)  
**Youtube:** [www.youtube.com/user/COCharterSchools](http://www.youtube.com/user/COCharterSchools)  
**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/cocharterschools](http://www.instagram.com/cocharterschools)  
**Twitter/X:** [x.com/COCharterSchool](http://x.com/COCharterSchool)

## Websites

**The League:** [coloradoleague.org](http://coloradoleague.org)  
**CLCS Action:** [clcsaction.org](http://clcsaction.org)  
**Charter Public:** [charterpublic.org](http://charterpublic.org)  
**Great Schools CO:** [greatschoolscolorado.org](http://greatschoolscolorado.org)

## Newsletters

**ACT** ([signup](#) // [manage](#))  
**MOVE** ([signup](#) // [manage](#))  
**NEWS** ([signup](#) // [manage](#))  
**EVENTS** ([signup](#) // [manage](#))  
**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS** ([signup](#) // [manage](#))  
**CONNECT** ([signup](#) // [manage](#))



# PARTNERS PAGE

We have partnered with exceptional organizations to support our member schools, their students, and their families across the state. Factoring in Colorado’s per-pupil spending rates, charter schools generate over \$1.5B in direct spending every fiscal year, plus additional spending dollars for facility projects, fundraising, and more. Our seven premium partners go above and beyond in supporting charter schools and the entire space to create greater quality, excellence, and growth for student outcomes.



## Marketplace

Find additional charter school supporters in our online database of partners who offer products and services to charter schools across the state. Business managers, school leaders, and anyone at a school with a need can likely find a vendor who can help them solve a problem inside the marketplace. Filter by category, or search on keywords.

[cochartermarketplace.org](http://cochartermarketplace.org)

# MEMBER **Q**UALITY STANDARDS & SUPPORTS (MQSS)

While autonomy and innovation have always been at the heart of what we do in the charter school space, accountability has been the other critical side of this equation. The encouraging news is that the state's triennial report has regularly shown charter school performance not only outpacing non-charter performance in aggregate but also for our state's most historically underserved student populations. Coming out of the pandemic, we are seeing some of the largest positive deltas in charter vs non-charter performance we've ever seen. But regardless of overall successes, we still have work to do to hold ourselves accountable in specific areas, particularly when it comes to chronically underperforming schools.

The League launched the **Member Quality Standards & Supports** in 2023-24 to begin addressing this issue. The program creates standards against which we measure ourselves, while offering additional support services to help improve chronically underperforming charter schools. The core idea behind the program is to work proactively with these schools over a four-year timeline through intensive support and accountability, thereby increasing the value to students and the charter ecosystem overall. Current data indicates that less than ten percent of member charter schools will be impacted by this program.



The following are high-level components of the program.

## **Performance Standards**

Those schools that are in the state's two lowest performance categories (Priority Improvement and Turnaround) and remain there persistently will be engaged in a quality improvement process with the League. The state's performance evaluation system is not perfect, but along with other measures, this initial standard will be used to flag schools at risk. Schools may submit additional measures of student achievement to supplement the state's lowest-tier performance categories.

## **Enhanced Support**

The League already plays an essential role as a support organization to member schools, and in this case, League staff will be providing enhanced, intensive support services for the most challenged schools. This will include initial assessment, review of additional information on quality, School Quality Reviews at subsidized or reduced rates, and then specific remediation on issues as co-determined within the process.

## **Accountability to All Schools**

Beginning in the fall of 2023 with preliminary performance results, the League reached out to schools in the lowest tiers. When final SPF results are available each year, member schools that fall below that standard will be engaged further to determine a course of action. If significant underperformance persists for a period of more than 3-4 years, the League will engage with our Member Council to assess whether that school still qualifies for League membership and support.

## **The Importance of Quality for the Entire Sector**

Initially, information from this program is not intended to go beyond League walls. Rather, as staff work to initiate the program, it will focus on coming together to pull out of any downward cycles. The Member Council and League staff will play an active and ongoing role in the program's oversight and implementation to ensure that the program is implemented for the benefit of individual schools and the overall charter sector.

Please [learn more at coloradoleague.org/about/mqss.html](https://coloradoleague.org/about/mqss.html) or email [Communications@coloradoleague.org](mailto:Communications@coloradoleague.org)

# GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO



The Colorado League of Charter Schools is distributing \$68 million in federal education funding to help Colorado expand students' opportunities to attend high-quality public charter schools that meet and exceed state academic standards.

The funding is part of the U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program (CSP), and the funds are distributed through the League's five-year *"Great Schools Colorado"* project. The program will award up to 30 subgrants focusing on two objectives:

- 1. Increasing the number of high-quality charter schools** and high-quality charter school seats in Colorado with an emphasis on how programs drive academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged and at-risk students.
- 2. Improving the quality of Colorado's charter school sector** and intensifying its impact on overall school quality and school improvement across the state.

Utilizing a competitive grant process, Great Schools Colorado will award CSP subgrants to charter school developers in Colorado to carry out one of the following activities in the state:

- Open and prepare for the operation of new charter schools;
- Open and prepare for the operation of replicated high-quality charter schools; or
- Expand high-quality charter schools.