
Media Recap Report: 2023-2024 School Year

Data for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Total Placements: 26 (including five that have yet to appear)



Denver Charter School Leads the Way Combatting Chronic Absenteeism

At University Prep, a two-campus charter elementary school network, a concerted effort over the past two years has boosted attendance and reduced tardiness, meaning more kids are spending more time learning.



Where is the Focus on Quality

If ever there was a time when quality needed to be front and center in our dialogue and decision-making, this is it. We must write it in all caps and debate what it is and how to achieve it for our students. We must make it the central tenet and refuse to be distracted by anything tangential.



Colorado Springs Students, Families, Benefitting from High-Performing Charter Schools

The Colorado Springs community, itself highly educated, cares greatly about the education of its children. It should be no surprise that when U.S. News & World Report released its annual ranking of the best public high schools in Colorado, two of the Top 10 schools are in Colorado Springs.



Defeat of Anti-Charter Schools Bill is a Win for Fort Collins Students, Families

Northern Colorado, and Fort Collins specifically, has benefited more than most from the decision 30 years ago by state legislators to allow charter schools. With that legislation, the door was opened to the 13 high-quality, high-performing charter schools that today give students and families in Larimer County an additional choice for the type of school that best meets their needs.



By Almost Any Measure, Charter Schools Are Succeeding in Durango

The charter schools in Durango—Animas High School, The Juniper School, and Mountain Middle School—are lifelines to many families in our community. The threat to their existence will return next January when the 2025 legislative session begins. These schools deserve the support of everyone in our community.



[Charter schools are vital to an equitable education](#)

June 5, 2024 – Colorado charter schools educate more than 135,000 students, about 50% of whom are students of color. Charter schools in our state produce better outcomes on average than traditional public schools despite receiving less funding per student.



[Charter schools ensure families don't have to sacrifice a great education because of their ZIP Code](#)

May 27, 2024 – My career in education began in 2009 in a small, special education classroom in North Carolina. Teaching in a school only 10 miles from the public schools I grew up attending, the public education my students experienced was vastly different from my own. None of my sixth-grade students could read or write above a kindergarten level. The only difference between us was the ZIP Code we called home.



[Controversial effort to impose stricter rules on Colorado charter schools fails in first vote](#)

April 12, 2024 – Among those who testified against the bill Thursday is Dan Schaller, president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools. He said the bill was “an extreme proposal that had garnered bipartisan national attention because of the extreme nature of it.”



[Effort to gut charter schools dies in Colorado House committee](#)

April 11, 2024 – “We’re glad that a bipartisan group of legislators recognized this bill for the extreme proposal it was and stopped it from moving forward,” said Dan Schaller, President of the Colorado League of Charter Schools. “What we really need right now is a focus on putting students first. We can do a better job for students, for quality, and for families if we are focused on outcomes and not agendas.”



[Lawmakers considering different bills affecting charter schools in Colorado](#)

April 1, 2024 – Dan Schaller, president of the league, said that the bill is frustrating because it brings up “some of the same fights of the past that don’t focus on kids.” He said that if the bill was about accountability, it should focus on school outcomes.



[A Colorado bill aims to make charter schools more transparent. Opponents say it’s a ‘blatant attack.’](#)

March 29, 2024 – The prospect of school districts closing charter schools when grappling with declining enrollment is also alarming to bill critics like Dan Schaller, president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools. “Without any regard for the quality of public school options we’re providing for kids,” Schaller said, “we’re slamming the door on opportunity.”



[Opinion: ‘Mean-spirited’ legislation targets Colorado’s charter schools](#)

March 15, 2024 – Charter schools have been an effective and popular option for hundreds of thousands of Colorado families, including many Black and Latino families. Precisely because they are successful, accountable, and cost-effective competition for conventional public schools, charter schools are the target of mean-spirited legislation that ultimately aims to put them out of business.



[Colorado charter school bill could cause divide among Democrats](#)

March 7, 2024 – Dan Schaller, president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, said the bill also allows a single community member to appeal the decision of a school board on a charter school application. That flies in the face of the local control, Schaller said.



[Mountain Middle’s executive director named Colorado Charter School Leader of the Year](#)

March 5, 2024 – Mountain Middle School’s Executive Director Shane Voss has been named Colorado Charter School’s Leader of the Year. Each year, nominations are invited from the charter school community across the state and a (Colorado League of Charter Schools) committee reviews submissions.



[What DPS Doesn’t Want Parents to Know During School Choice Enrollment](#)

Feb. 8, 2024 – An anti-choice movement is growing across this nation, and the Denver Public Schools Board of Education members bought into that movement when they ended the robust school performance framework. Teacher’s unions want parents to live with the school in their neighborhood under the ruse that every public school offers an equitable education.



[My charter school prepared me for college; others like me might not be so lucky](#)

Feb. 7, 2024 – Being able to go to a charter school allowed me to explore different career fields, because my school focused on giving students opportunities to have internships in different career fields that could help us gauge what we wanted to study.



[Dismantling ‘Oppressive’ Testing Cheats Students](#)

Jan. 25, 2024 – Citing DPS’ commitment to dismantling “oppressive systems and structures rooted in racism,” Esserman said ongoing use of CMAS to evaluate Academy 360 charter school would be continuing “to rely on an oppressive system and structure that ensures that Black and Latino students do not get the education that they deserve and are entitled to.”



[Mountain Middle School granted excellence award](#)

Jan. 23, 2024 – Mountain Middle School has been awarded the John Irwin School of Excellence Award. ... Mountain Middle School Executive Director Shane Voss is also a finalist for Colorado Charter School Leader of the Year. The winners will be announced at the annual League of Charter Schools Conference in February.



[The Urgent Need for More School Choice in Colorado](#)

Jan. 23, 2024 – The only downside to school choice in our state? There isn’t enough of it. It’s the right prescription for what ails Colorado’s public schools — an inoculation against the plague of malaise and abysmal performance at too many schools in too many communities.



[As School Performance Slumps, Parents Opt Out](#)

Jan. 23, 2024 – As the Denver Gazette reported, full-time homeschooling grew by 8% to 9,406 students (and)... schools operated by the statewide BOCES and Charter School Institute jumped year-over-year by almost 52% and 5%, respectively.



[Unlocking opportunity: The power of charter schools for Colorado parents](#)

Jan. 12, 2024 – Every student has a unique blend of learning styles and needs. Charter schools – tuition-free, public schools that often have greater flexibility and autonomy than non-charter schools – play a vital role in offering choices when it comes to where and how students receive their education.



[The State of School Choice in Colorado](#)

Jan. 2, 2024 – Dan Schaller, president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, recently argued that Colorado “families flock to charter schools because of the quality and flexibility they offer to meet the unique needs of our students.” He pointed out that more than 137,000 Colorado students attend charter schools.



[For the Sake of Equity, Expand School Choice](#)

Dec. 28, 2023 – School choice could lift all students. As the outcomes provided by traditional schools underwhelm, parents are moving their children to charters at a record pace. Each time a district loses students to alternative schools, board members and superintendents are pressured by market forces to improve outcomes.



[Colorado Charter Schools – Among the Country’s Best](#)

Dec. 24, 2023 – Colorado might be known for its skiing, national parks and craft beer, but we need to add one more thing – the quality of our public charter schools. It has been 30 years since the Colorado Legislature passed the Charter Schools Act, and in that time we have seen families flock to charter schools because of the quality and flexibility they offer.



[Denver Schools Put the Spin on Public Outreach](#)

Sept. 27, 2023 – Charter schools serve a significantly higher percentage of students eligible for subsidized meals than do DPS-run schools (74 percent vs. 60 percent). Among FRL students, charter students outperform DPS students by 2.8 percentage points in math and 3.8 percentage points in English Language Arts.



[How one charter school is working to counter Covid learning loss](#)

July 13, 2023 – Nine Denver charter schools won a \$595,700 RISE grant last year, with funding continuing through this summer. In total, the schools enroll “2,000 of Colorado’s highest-need students. (The grant gives them) the opportunity to participate in innovative extended-school-year programs that include academic, social-emotional, and experiential components.”