Colorado League of Charter Schools



September 11, 2026

Strong performance, expanding opportunity

Colorado's charter schools continue to demonstrate their impact across communities and student groups. This month, we examine preliminary state ratings showing strong charter school performance, highlight how Crown Pointe Academy expanded to meet family demand, explore what it takes to open a new charter school and look at the lessons emerging from rural schools and student attendance.

Please submit your articles and updates by Thursday at noon each week for inclusion.

Preliminary State Ratings Show Strong Charter School Performance Across Student Groups

By Kevin Hesla

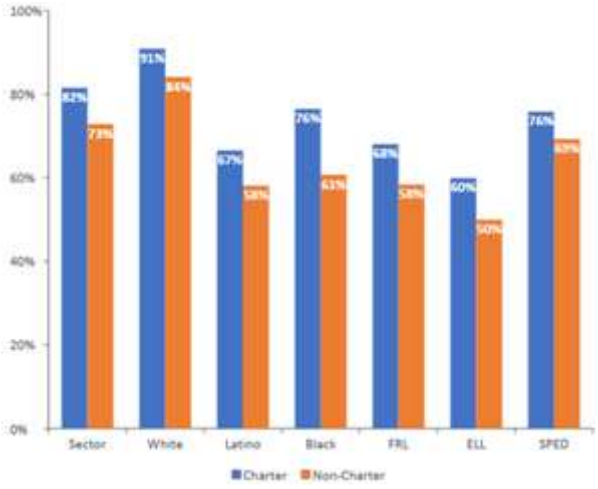
The League reviewed preliminary 2026 School Performance Framework (SPF) ratings data that was recently released by CDE. The results reveal a clear and consistent pattern that Colorado charter school students across every major demographic group are more likely than their non-charter peers to attend a school rated "Performance" the state's highest accountability category.

When the preliminary ratings are examined by student demographics, the pattern is remarkably consistent. Whether looking at students by race and ethnicity, family

income, multilingual learner status, or disability status, charter school students are more likely to be enrolled in performance-rated schools than comparable students attending non-charter schools. And the consistency of this finding is particularly important.

Enrollment in Performance Rated Schools: 2026 Preliminary SPF Ratings

Colorado continues to face substantial differences in educational outcomes among student groups. Students from low-income families, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and many students of color have historically had less access to high-performing educational opportunities. Closing those gaps requires more than improving statewide averages. It requires ensuring that students from every background have meaningful access to schools where students are succeeding. The preliminary SPF results suggest charter schools continue to play an important role in expanding that access.



Notes: Preliminary AEC ratings data will not be released until 9/16. We will update our analysis when AEC data are released and again in December when final ratings data are released.

This does not mean every charter school is successful, nor does it mean charter schools alone can eliminate longstanding disparities in educational outcomes. Outcomes across Colorado's charter schools naturally vary, just as they do across the broader public education system. However, the results for the most historically underserved student groups are particularly compelling.

Low-income students and English language learners attending charter schools are both 10 percentage points more likely to attend performance-rated schools than their non-charter peers. For Black students, the difference between the two sectors is even more substantial: 15 percentage points.

But the statewide pattern deserves attention. If charter school students from every major demographic group are more likely to attend schools earning Colorado's highest ratings category, policymakers should be asking what they can learn from our schools—and how more families can gain access to similarly strong educational opportunities.

That is especially important because families experience public education at the school level. A student does not attend a statewide average or a school sector. A student attends a particular school, with particular teachers, expectations, programs, and opportunities. For families, therefore, access to a high-performing school is not an abstract policy question. It can shape a child's academic trajectory and future opportunities.

Colorado's charter schools were created in part to provide families with additional public school options and to create space for educators to develop different approaches to serving students. Three decades later, state ratings data continue to offer an important measure of that promise.

In a state still working to ensure that every child—regardless of race, income, language, or ability—has access to an excellent public education, that is a result worth understanding, protecting, and building upon.

Spotlight



Crown Pointe Academy Made Room for 275 More Students. It may not be Enough.



From Concept to Classroom: How New Charter Schools Get Off the Ground in Colorado

A decade-long vision is finally a reality — and families are responding.

This fall, nine new public charter schools are opening their doors to Colorado students for the first time.



Colorado is Making Progress on Absenteeism. Charter Schools are Leading the Way

From childcare to mental-health support, Colorado charters are finding creative ways to remove the barriers that keep students out of the classroom.



What Five Charter Schools in One Rural Colorado County Tell Us About Public Education

Colorado's charter school debate is often framed through the experiences of Denver and other Front Range communities.

Did You Know?



Build Your Charter Leadership Foundation

Ready to strengthen your leadership skills? Foundations of Charter School Leadership & Administration provides practical training to help current and aspiring charter leaders build the knowledge and skills they need to lead effectively.

Community Announcements

Colorado Early Colleges Celebrates 20 Years

Colorado Early Colleges invites the community to celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Cleared for Takeoff Gala, honoring two decades of student impact and looking ahead to the future. Learn more about tickets, sponsorships, and silent auction opportunities.

Honor Charter School Celebrates Groundbreaking

Honor Charter School will celebrate the construction kickoff of Marzano Academies' newest K–8 charter school with a groundbreaking ceremony on September 29 at 3:00 PM in Peyton. Community members are invited to join the celebration and mark the beginning of the school's new campus.

Learning Opportunities

2026 Elevating Excellence Conference (Nov. 17-18)

Join CDE on November 17–18, 2026, for the free Elevating Excellence Conference: Excellence by Design: Innovate, Elevate, Impact. The conference will bring together educators and leaders to explore high-leverage practices, effective improvement systems, and strategies for leveraging state and federal funds to improve student outcomes.

Paid: Join nXu's Colorado Educator Advisory Council by October 2

nXu is recruiting Colorado educators for the second cohort of its Educator Advisory Council for 2026-27. Council members deliver nXu lessons with their own students and give feedback that shapes future versions of the curriculum. Open to all grade levels and subject areas. Features five virtual sessions across the year and a $2,000 stipend. Applications close Friday, October 2.

New Colorado IEP Parent Training Available (On-demand)

CDE has launched a new online Colorado IEP Parent Training designed to support families' meaningful participation in the special education process. The training includes 10 modules covering the IEP process, parent and student rights, and state

and federal special education requirements. Schools may wish to share this resource with families and special education staff.

Resources & Grants

Free Hake Grammar Curriculum Available

Heritage Heights Academy is offering Hake Grammar curriculum materials for grades 3–8 to a school that can use them. At least 60 books are available per grade level, with workbooks included for select grades. Interested schools may contact Natalia Miller-Forrest at Natalia.Miller-Forrest@heritageha.org for more information.

Safe2Tell Student Ambassadors

Safe2Tell is accepting Student Ambassador applications for students in grades 10–12. Selected ambassadors help promote the program through creative projects in their schools and communities.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Applications are open for several vacancies on the Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee, including representatives from education, administration, and transition-focused organizations. Applications will remain open through January 2027.

High School Success Partnerships

Colorado high schools can partner with the Center for High School Success (CHSS), a national nonprofit focused on improving student outcomes through 9th grade. With significant funding available to offset implementation costs, participating schools can access proven strategies to boost attendance, increase on-track rates, strengthen school culture, and improve graduation outcomes. To learn more or express interest, contact Gina Yacovetta at gyacovetta@highschoolsuccess.org.

CDE Schools of Choice Updates

Charter School Capital Construction Report Due October 31

Charter schools eligible for Charter School Capital

Construction funding must complete the annual CSCC-01 report by October 31. The report determines program eligibility and funding levels for the upcoming fiscal year.

2026 Preliminary School Performance Frameworks Released

CDE has released the 2026 Preliminary School Performance Frameworks, giving schools an early look at performance results and key accountability indicators. Charter school leaders are encouraged to review their data, connect with their authorizer about next steps, and explore the Request to Reconsider process if applicable.

TLCC Data Relaunch Webinar Series

CDE is offering a three-part webinar series this fall to help schools and districts use TLCC educator feedback to strengthen culture, retention, and improvement planning. Sessions will be held October 8, November 5, and December 3.

Partner Spotlight

Capturing Kids' Hearts

Bringing out the best in people, and making school a place everyone wants to be.

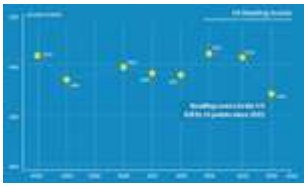
Top News

Hybrid schools open new legal front for choice

The 74 | September 10

The Institute for Justice won major cases for parents wanting to spend state funds at religious schools. Now it's helping alternative providers.

Global test scores hit new lows — just as AI takes hold in schools



The 74 | September 10

PISA results show learning continuing to slide across much of the world, while supermajorities of students report using AI chatbots for schoolwork.

PSD plans public meetings to explain need for school closures [paywall]

Coloradoan | September 10

In response to concerns raised by Board of Education member Coronda Ziegler, Poudre School District has scheduled two community meetings to share the data and rationale driving its plan to consolidate and close some schools as early as next fall.



How much stricter will homeschool enrichment rules get in Colorado? These officials will decide.

Chalkbeat | September 9

Should private contractors be allowed to run state-funded programs for Colorado's homeschoolers? If so, what guardrails should exist and how much public money should the contractors get?

Huge homeschool enrichment program closes in Colorado, following stricter rules and demise of authorizer

Chalkbeat | September 9

A publicly funded homeschool enrichment program that last year enrolled nearly 2,800 Colorado students will cease operating after a turbulent summer in which its authorizer dissolved and the state launched a strict approval process for such programs.



****In split vote, Summit Board of Education declines charter applications under old timeline**

Summit Daily | September 8

Tenmile Academy is considering a state appeal after the 4-3 decision, while High Rockies plans to reapply under the district's February-to-April window.

Jeffco Schools wheels and deals in the dark [paywall]

Denver Gazette | September 8

This November, voters will have an opportunity to push back.

Is your school a bright spot? Explore The 74's Reading Map, Lite-Brite style

The 74 | September 3

As poverty rates rise, reading proficiency rates tend to fall. But what if there's a way to identify schools that beat the odds in literacy?



Steamboat Montessori to host fall festival Oct. 3
Pilot Today | September 2
The entire community is invited to Steamboat Montessori's second annual fall festival on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Howelsen Rodeo Grounds.

Colorado charters in the news

League Events



24 September 2026

Regional Gathering: Colorado Springs

Join your Colorado Springs Charter School leaders for a League Hosted Happy Hour.

Regional Gatherings, 2 E Pikes Peak Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903



2 October 2026

Leadership Summit 2026

Join charter school leaders, advocates, and partners from across Colorado for a day focused on the future of education, leadership, advocacy, and innovation.

Major events, 1672 Lawrence St, Denver, CO 80202



16 October 2026

Town Hall October 2026

Stay informed with timely, expert-led conversations on the issues shaping Colorado charter schools.

Town Hall

View more

Health & Wellness

Build a Sustainable Wellness Program

During this session, we will explore strategies for building, supporting, and sustaining a wellness champion program that can drive meaningful impact at your school over time. Register now.

More Health & Wellness

Careers

For a full list of current job opportunities at charter schools across the state, or to post your school's openings, please visit our Career Center.

High School Graphic Arts (Technology) Teacher - 26/27 School Year

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $52,000 - 79,126 per year

Closing date: Jun 15, 2026 12:00 AM

Eagle Ridge Academy, Brighton, CO

School Counselor

Contract type: Part-Time

Salary: $55,000 - 78,286 per year

Closing date: Jun 18, 2026 12:00 AM

Excel Academy Charter School, Excel Academy Charter School



Gifted & Talented Teacher

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $58,000 per year

Closing date: Jun 26, 2026 12:00 AM

Cherry Creek Academy, 6260 S Dayton Street, Englewood, CO 80111

View all jobs

Recent League Newsletters



- ADVOCACY NETWORK (August 20, 2026)
- NEWS (September 4, 2026)
- MOVE (August 14, 2026)
- LEGISLATIVE MATTERS (May 13, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (May 28, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (May 21, 2026)
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