

# Forward into our next chapter

Welcome back to the school year!

Here at the League, our members' needs are what drive our efforts on a daily basis. We're proud of all we accomplished last year in working collectively to increase PPR, drive up facilities funding, and equalize funding for CSI schools. We also successfully beat back one of the most anti-charter bills in Colorado history. But we're not finished. We know the conditions to open, operate, and enroll students in Colorado remain challenging. We're working on our 2025 legislative agenda now, and our sister organization [CLCS Action](#) remains intently focused on upcoming elections.

Even with all these past wins, it's time to begin again. To start anew. We are constantly looking at additional ways to increase our value and enhance our support to you. As the new year kicks off, I wanted to share with you some of the ways that the League continues to up our game to better serve our schools, leaders, and communities. But if there are other topics or priorities you think we should be focused on, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know.

**First, we're opening a new chapter of voice and member representation.** Starting in September, we're continuing with our [town hall series](#), and we're planning 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 501(c)4 organization [CLCS Action](#), we are working to be more influential in local and state elections that are necessary to advance and defend quality charter schools, and we continue to build up momentum toward our legislative efforts by spending over \$2 for every \$1 received in membership dues. Imagine the force we could be if we were more effective at activating the 135,000+ families across the state currently benefiting from public charter schools.

**Third, we're launching and continuing efforts to ensure that quality and opportunity for all students are at the heart of what we do.** In line with our organizational principles, we're continuing with the implementation of our [Member Quality Standards & Supports](#) program. This initiative will elevate the urgency of quality amongst all of us. We are also waiting to find out whether the League will be chosen to administer the federal [CSP program](#) in Colorado. If we are awarded, we'll be opening up a new five-year chapter of accelerating growth and quality in the Colorado educational ecosystem.



But even with all these efforts aligned with our new [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 a standout 2024-25 school year. Please let us know how we can best serve you.

Best,

Dan Schaller, President  
Colorado League of Charter Schools

# Your Dues Working for You

For every \$1 received in dues we spend over \$2 on advocacy.

**+ \$2 for \$1**

Over \$3 million invested in advocacy efforts each year.

**+ \$3 million**

We invest 57 percent of our total resources on advocacy efforts.

**57% on advocacy**

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES SUMMARY

### Defeat of Historic Anti-charter Bill

The League successfully beat back HB24-1363, which could have gutted the gains of the last 30 years.

### Full Funding Equity for CSI Schools

We secured full funding equity for CSI schools and the more than 20,000 students they serve in HB24-1394

This means a total of **\$49 million** in funding towards Colorado Charter School Institute equalization next year, 2024-2025.

### Facilities Funding Hits \$44.2 Million

Funding towards Charter School Capital Construction within HB24-1448 (New Public School Finance Formula), will rise by \$65.5 million over the next five years to supply critical charter school facilities funding.

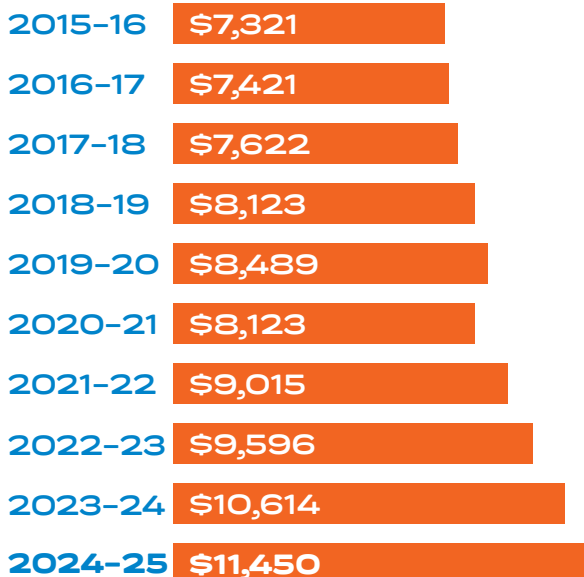
### Per Pupil Revenue Continues Trend

A Per Pupil Revenue increase of 7.3% bolsters the average per-pupil funding to a record high of **\$11,460**.

## 2024 CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRESS

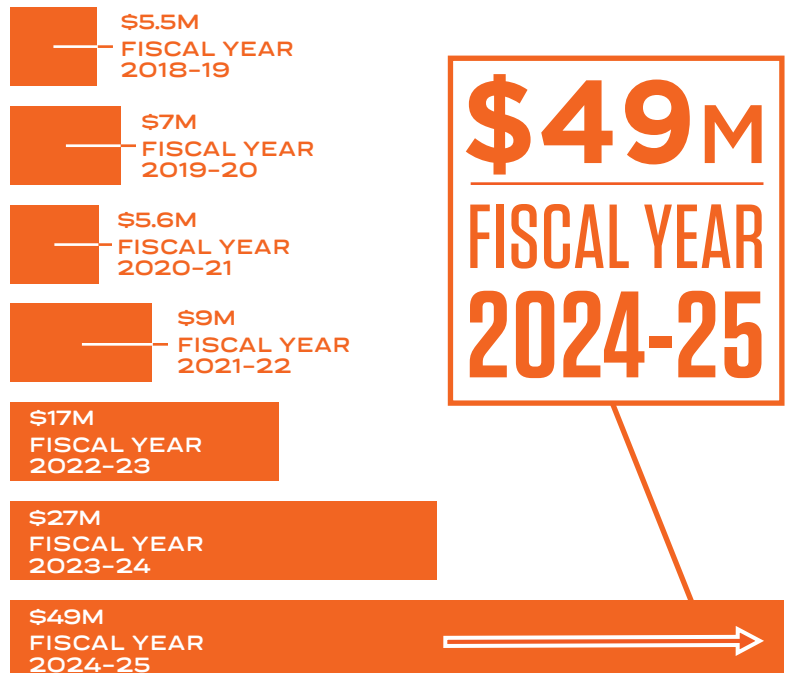
**51%** Members reporting that funding and funding equity for charter schools should be top League policy priorities.

### School PPR in Colorado



Percentage of increase over ten years: **56%**

### CSI Equalization Fund



# 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

### Resources, Support, and 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 roles, region, phase, etc) to build connection and share in problem-solving around the relevant issues
- Discounted access to our major events including our Annual Conference and Leadership Summit
- Town Halls
- Regional Convenings

## Fee-Based Services (discounted pricing for members)

Discounts on content experts in our School Services Department ready to coach, consult, and offer customized training to converse and diagnose whatever challenges are in front of you, including:

Instructional Support  
 Exceptional Students  
 Social Emotional Learning  
 Human Resources and Talent  
 Facilities and Finance  
 School Operations  
 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
 Governance and Boards  
 Enrollment Support: Marketing and Communications  
 Health and Wellness  
 Regional Advocacy  
 Community Engagement and beyond.  
 Discounts on professional development opportunities  
 Discounts on School Quality Reviews

Please refer to our [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/resource/member-quality-standards-supports.html](https://coloradoleague.org/resource/member-quality-standards-supports.html)

## Why work at the League?

### “Mission and vision are at the heart of everything we do”

While we value continuous learning and development for employees and the organization overall, we focus what we plan, learn, and do through our mission and vision. And through our first priority we ground ourselves in the priorities of our students with a sense of urgency and accountability so that no student is left behind.

### “Care and respect come first”

We value and respect people, perspectives, and experiences because respect is the gateway to all our norms. In respecting our staff, members, and all stakeholders we create an environment in which we create a work-life balance paired with high expectations and the assumption of good will.

### “We pursue honesty and transparency”

We pursue open, honest and transparent relationships in our organization where we listen to understand, question with respect and deliver transparent decisions to all stakeholders. We are constructive in our conversations, and pursue honesty without defensiveness to hold each other accountable to our mission, vision, and commitments.

### “We seek to co-create and collaborate”

We co-create and collaborate to include people, to improve our decisions, to value various perspectives, and to demonstrate the strength of our culture. We use the respect, honest and mission focus to improve our organizational outcomes and provide a basis for how we support final decisions and outcomes.

[Open positions](#) to join our passionate, hard-working, fun team are listed on our website.



The League offers medical and dental insurance after a 30-day to the first of the month waiting period, including 100% premium coverage for the employee on multiple medical plans. The company also offers generous PTO, 20 days of Holiday pay and a company-matching 401k plan.

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.



## LEAGUE STAFF



**Kim Chetty**

Associate Director,  
Data and Systems,  
CLCS



**Kyle DeBeer**

VP Civic Affairs,  
CLCS Action



**Prateek Dutta**

VP Policy,  
CLCS Action



**Patti Glock**

Director of Business  
& Operations  
Services, CLCS



**Caymin Harper**

Associate Director,  
Events, CLCS



**Mark Heffner**

VP Finance Operations,  
CLCS



**Bright Homawoo**

Associate Director of  
Grassroots Advocacy,  
CLCS Action



**Bill Knous**

Director of Charter  
School Growth, CLCS



**Melia Lucero**

Marketing Manager,  
CLCS



**Peter Mason**

VP Communications,  
CLCS



**Dave Mohr**

Director of Accounting,  
CLCS



**Allison Nicotera**

Associate Director  
Grassroots Advocacy,  
CLCS Action



**Dan Schaller**

President, CLCS  
Board Chair,  
CLCS Action



**Dawna Taylor**

Chief of Staff / VP  
School Services,  
CLCS



**Karolina  
Villagrana**

Director of School  
Quality, CLCS

### Support Staff



**Kaci Coats**

Exceptional School  
Services, CLCS



**Kim Daly**

Communications,  
CLCS



**Kia Murray**

Academic  
Services, CLCS



**Rainey Wikstrom**

School Wellness,  
CLCS

[www.coloradoleague.org/staff](http://www.coloradoleague.org/staff)



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CHARTER SCHOOLS

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### Careers

The **Colorado Charter School Career Center**. Post job openings from your charter school or search job openings at charters across Colorado. League members have unlimited postings to our jobs board. [www.coloradoleague.org/resources/careers.html](http://www.coloradoleague.org/resources/careers.html)

### Learning Communities

#### **Learning Communities Groups**

Choose Learning Communities to organize around key functional and leadership areas, to provide a safe and accessible opportunity for school staff to connect and meet regularly with both peers and thought leaders in the larger community. Learning Communities include meetings with expert hosts, discussion boards and downloadable resources. League members only; please log in to join a Learning Community. [www.coloradoleague.org/resources/learning-communities.html](http://www.coloradoleague.org/resources/learning-communities.html)

### News

#### **Charter School news**



### Research & Reports

As educators and leaders, we know that with knowledge comes the opportunity for improvement. Access to credible **research and reporting** provides critical transparency in the charter school sector, helping to strengthen the movement, encourage healthy competition and increase access to high-quality, public school options for families across Colorado. [www.coloradoleague.org/resources/research-reports.html](http://www.coloradoleague.org/resources/research-reports.html)

### Town Halls

#### **Virtual Community Gatherings**

The League continuously derives great value by providing open calls across our membership on a regular basis. Featuring experts in a wide variety of fields, each virtual town hall focuses on bringing school leaders and decision-makers current information on relevant topics to keep members educated and informed. These virtual meetings are held at 9:00 AM on the third Friday of every-other-month from September through May. [www.coloradoleague.org/resources/town-halls.html](http://www.coloradoleague.org/resources/town-halls.html)

### Training & Extended Learning

#### **Enhancing Professional Development**

Discover a world of continuous growth and mastery with the League's comprehensive training and extended learning programs. As a member or non-member, you gain exclusive access to a diverse range of cutting-edge **courses and workshops**, meticulously designed to empower you both personally and professionally. [www.coloradoleague.org/resources/training-and-extended-learning.html](http://www.coloradoleague.org/resources/training-and-extended-learning.html)

# SYNERGY

The Colorado Charter Schools  
**Annual Conference**

February 27-28, 2025

Denver Marriott Tech Center

SYNERGY: The interaction or cooperation of two or more entities to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

**Please join us at our 2025 Annual Conference**

The Annual Conference provides access to school leaders, board members, business managers and administrative and classroom staff from 265 charter schools across Colorado. Our annual conference draws between 800-1000 school leaders, partners, funders, business managers, and educators from across the state.



**Join us for the Leadership Summit**

The Charter School Leadership Summit is one of our biggest annual events focused on bringing educators, administrators, and policymakers from around the state together. Every aspect of the day is designed to empower charter school leaders with the knowledge, skills, and community partners necessary to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education.

Join us for a transformative experience of educational innovation and leadership!

**All Events:**  
[www.coloradoleague.org/events.html](http://www.coloradoleague.org/events.html)

# LS24

## LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

# CATALYSTS

Supporting & Celebrating Agents of Change



Friday October 11, 2024

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center

# CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCACY DAY 2025

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
MCNICHOLS BUILDING & COLORADO STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
**FREE**

We're excited to again host charter students, teachers, and leaders from across the state for this unique advocacy and leadership opportunity.

We are stronger together — the more charter school advocates attend, the stronger the message we send to legislators about the importance of charter public schools and their students across the state.

## Premium Sponsors



## Sponsor Opportunities



### Leadership Summit Sponsorship

Thank you for your interest in the Colorado League of Charter Schools Leadership Summit which will be held in-person on Friday, October 11, 2024! Please join us as we support leaders from 265 schools who are meeting today's challenges serving students in education. Your sponsorship helps build knowledge and skill as well as fostering conversations and networking at the event. In addition, your investment helps the League to provide on-going services and resources to Colorado charter schools.

See the [Leadership Summit Prospectus](#)



### Annual Conference Sponsorship

The 2025 Colorado Charter Schools Annual Conference is now open for Sponsor and Exhibitor purchases. Join us February 27 & 28, 2025 at the Marriott DTC and join us for a special sponsor and VIP happy hour on the 26th.

As a sponsor and exhibitor, the League helps you access more than 7,000 school leaders, board members, business managers, administrative and classroom staff who work at 265 charter schools serving 135,000 students in more than 70 communities across the state. Our in-person conference draws between 800-1000 attendees and our primary focus is on all types of school leaders who lead, run, manage,

and purchase for the charter schools in the state. We hope that you attend the conference for opportunities to speak with, support, and create solutions for our members who operate quality schools for students.

Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Annual Charter School Conference. Your sponsorship helps build knowledge and skill as well as fostering conversations and networking at the event. In addition, your investment helps the League to provide on-going services and resources to Colorado charter schools.

For additional information on the listed sponsorships and sponsor details/logistics, please see our [2025 Annual Conference Prospectus](#)



## Charter Marketplace Directory

Join the League's Marketplace Directory program to increase your visibility in Colorado's \$1.5B charter school market. 265 charter schools and their network offices are looking for vendors across a variety of categories every day as they plan, build, manage, and run their schools.

See our Marketplace here: [marketplace.coloradoleague.org](https://marketplace.coloradoleague.org)



## Quality, Choice & Accountability

Charter schools are tuition-free, public schools that have the flexibility to be innovative, entrepreneurial, self-governing, and yet are held accountable for student and operational performance. Open to all students, each of these independent public schools is different, increasing the variety of high-quality school choices available across Colorado.

From core knowledge, classical and early college curriculums to Montessori, language immersion and more, charter schools allow families to select the school that best fits their child's unique learning style. In exchange for operational freedom and flexibility, charters are subject to higher levels of accountability.

## How it Works

The "charter" establishing each school is a contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success. The "charter" contract is between the charter school and the entity granting the charter (the authorizer). In Colorado, the authorizer is generally the local school district, but in some cases it is the state via the [Colorado Charter School Institute](#).



In Colorado, charters are granted for a period of time, generally five years. At the end of the term, the authorizer may renew the school's contract. Charter schools are accountable to their authorizer—as well as to the students and families they serve—to produce positive academic results and adhere to the charter contract. They must also follow all state and federal public school laws.

Like traditional public schools, charters receive state funding based on a formula for each child enrolled in the school, referred to as Per-Pupil Revenue, or PPR. However, charter schools do not currently receive public funding for facilities.

## Charter Facts

**Charter Schools are public schools. Colorado Charter Schools must be non-profit by law. Charter schools do not charge tuition. Charter schools use non-discriminatory enrollment practices. There are no test-in requirements to attend charter schools. Today, 265 public charter schools in Colorado serve over 135,000 students (2023-24). Charter school enrollment in Colorado is 15% of total public school enrollment in the state. Charter school students must take state assessments. Charter schools are subject to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Charter schools serve a broad range of students, including: low-income students, racial and ethnic students of color, and students with disabilities or other special needs. Colorado charter schools are geographically dispersed across the state and serve urban, suburban and rural communities across 70 localities in the state. Charter school programs and academic designs are as diverse as the students they enroll. Some charters implement longer school days, while others implement curricula specifically designed for at-risk students, gifted children, pregnant/parenting teens, juvenile offenders, and more.**

## Charter Successes: SPF Results

2023: In 2021-22, Colorado charter schools continued a trend of outperforming non-charter schools on the state School Performance Framework (SPF).

# +19%

**Charter school students see significantly higher SPF performance ratings than students who attend non-charter schools**

## ACT Network

The League's Act for Charters Today (ACT) Advocacy Network is the group and process through which we activate and engage our public charter school families, parents, students and staff for the common good. This action-oriented network strives to build knowledge, skills and power to strengthen and support charter schools throughout the state.



Our advocacy efforts are focused on state policies and district initiatives that ensure all Colorado children deserve access to high-quality public school options, including charter schools. Build your charter school knowledge and advocacy skills while taking part in a powerful and influential community statewide that intercedes on behalf of our schools and, more importantly, our students. We'll give you everything you need to make taking action for charters quick and easy! By joining ACT, you can:



### Make a Difference

- Learn more about public charter schools and help change the narrative.
- Build and sharpen your advocacy skills to help the cause.
- Commit to making an impact by taking action for charters.

### Gain Valuable Insight

- First-hand, real-time information on issues affecting charter schools
- Monthly email updates on advocacy opportunities and resources
- Invitations for trainings to increase your understanding of charter schools
- Timely action alerts and advocacy strategies that make a difference

**Help to Grow the ACT Network** — Know of other charter school community members who should join the ACT Network? Share the link with other charter school teachers and staff, students and alumni, and community members to help build our network and our impact. [act.coloradoleague.org](https://act.coloradoleague.org)



SCAN HERE TO JOIN THE ACT NETWORK →

**Contribute to the ACT Story Bank** — Help us get the word out about why public charter schools matter. Whether you're a parent, teacher, staff, alumni, or community member, we want to hear your unique story on the importance of charter schools. Share your story so it can be incorporated in our school year 2024-2025 advocacy efforts [here](#).

**Attend or Host a Training** — Need to brush up on your charter school and advocacy knowledge? Reach out to our Advocacy Team to schedule a customized training on topics ranging from charter school basics to effective advocacy methods that can be offered in-person or virtually.

**Join One of Our Upcoming Leadership Cohorts** — If you're a charter school student, teacher, or parent interested in taking the next step in leadership, consider joining one of our leadership cohorts launching this October. These programs will give you the opportunity to connect with other emerging leaders across the state, deepen your skills and confidence related to charter school advocacy, and engage in impactful advocacy actions.

# Member Quality Standards & Supports

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 feel free to reach out to us directly to learn more about the program.** [Communications@coloradoleague.org](mailto:Communications@coloradoleague.org)