

2023 Colorado Legislative Priorities

Expanding access to high-quality public school options for all

The 2023 Colorado Legislative Session begins as we navigate yet another critical time in the lives of hundreds of thousands of K-12 students in our state. The pandemic exposed how a one-size-fits-all education system does not work for everyone. The League will work diligently with the state legislature and governmental agencies in 2023 to advance our policy agenda on behalf of 269 public charter schools educating over 135,000 students. That includes:

- 1. Preserve and Protect Colorado’s Charter Law and Charter School Landscape**
 - a. The League has a history of fighting anti-charter legislation (last year’s Collective Bargaining bill and 2021’s Rebuttable Presumption bill, for example), and in 2023, we will continue to fiercely protect the policies that have made Colorado one of the best charter school environments in the country.
- 2. Pursue More Funding as well as Funding Equity for Charter School Students**
 - a. The League will fight to raise per-pupil funding 9% to its highest level ever (\$10,421 per student), as well as push lawmakers for greater funding equity for Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) students both in the short-term and through a long-term formula-driven approach.
- 3. Advocate for Greater Authorizing Consistency**
 - a. We will prioritize legislation to level the playing field by creating a more fair and accountable system of standards by which charter authorizing practices are assessed and addressed.
- 4. Ensure Fairness and Flexibility for Our Schools**
 - a. Prevent districts from taking charter appeals to district courts where the districts’ deep financial resources create an unfair advantage.
 - b. Clarify the “public entity” status of charter schools, thereby ensuring they are eligible for many of the same beneficial exemptions now readily available to school districts.
- 5. Strengthen Access to Affordable Facilities**
 - a. The League will advocate for improvements to the federal State Facilities Incentive Grant program, the BEST match factors and the Charter School Capital Construction fund to increase charter school access to affordable facilities.
- 6. Preserve Accountability and Reduce Achievement Gaps**
 - a. We will fight to protect core features of our state’s accountability system to ensure that families can continue to make the most informed choices possible.
- 7. Support Legislation on Other Critical Issues Impacting Our Schools, Including:**
 - a. Safety,
 - b. Teacher Recruitment and Retention, and
 - c. Student Behavioral and Mental Health Supports.

See this [PDF](#) for the full document.