

# Colorado Charters by the Numbers

Colorado charter schools have the **2nd strongest charter school law in the country**. They are subject to the same standards and assessments as all other Colorado public schools, and they must also comply with the same "Public School Financial Transparency Act" as all other public schools, which requires them to regularly post detailed financial information online for public access.

## 255 Number of charter schools in Colorado

- ✓ Charter schools are spread across 70 cities and towns statewide, including more than 30 schools serving communities in rural Colorado
- ✓ 95% of charter schools in Colorado were started by local parents and individuals who simply saw a need for more high-quality schools
- ✓ Charter schools in Colorado offer a wide range of unique educational programs for students including Montessori, STEM, language immersion, Core Knowledge, Waldorf, and more

## 13% of public school students in Colorado attend charter schools

- ✓ If Colorado charter schools were combined into a single school district, it would be the largest school district in the state (120,000+ students)
- ✓ Compared to other states, Colorado has the 2nd highest percentage of students attending charter schools in the country
- ✓ Currently, there are an estimated 24,000 children on waitlists hoping to attend charter schools in Colorado

## 5% In Colorado, charter schools serve 5 percent more English language learners and students of color than the state's non-charter public schools

- ✓ All Colorado charter schools are, by law, tuition-free, open to all, and cannot screen students as part of their admission process
- ✓ Charter schools in Colorado serve a student population that is more diverse than non-charter schools, with charters serving 51% students of color compared to 45% for non-charters and 21% English language learners compared to 16% for non-charters

## 7 of the top 10 public schools in Colorado that had the highest SAT scores in 2017 were charter schools

- ✓ Charter school students in Colorado are outperforming state averages by over 4.5 percentage points in both reading and math
- ✓ According to 2018 U.S. News & World Report rankings, 10 of the top 25 public high schools in Colorado were charter schools

