2022 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES SUMMARY

Passage of “Special Education Services in Charter Schools” (HB1294), a landmark piece of legislation

- Another $10 million in funding towards Charter School Capital Construction
- An additional $8 million in funding towards Colorado Charter School Institute equalization
- A 6.1% increase in per-pupil funding
- An additional $80 million in SPED funding

And perhaps equally as important are the things that DIDN’T happen – such as another harmful bill similar to last year’s HB1295 or inclusion of charters in a threatening piece of collective bargaining legislation

The League worked to shape public policy and opinion that favors charter school quality and growth as well as funding equity and facilities access

League Benefits

League Membership: 91%
Member Satisfaction: 93%

New Member Council & Regional Collectives
New Resource Center & Online Training

ONLINE, RADIO, TV

$1,500,000 RISE GRANT: The League led a Cohort of 13 charter schools to develop engagement strategies for diverse learners

10 Support calls for Leaders per month
6 Cohorts meeting regularly
24 Public Relations Wins
9 Monthly Virtual Town Halls

Just the Facts

15% Of all Colorado public school students attend charters

134,000+ Colorado’s public charter school students. That’s 50% more than Colorado’s single largest school district (DPS).

#2 Colorado has the nation’s second-best public charter school laws (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools)

265 Number of charter schools in Colorado, a 51% INCREASE over the past decade

Seven of the top 10 public high schools in Colorado are charter schools (US News & World Report, 2022)

LEAGUE & CHARTER SUCCESSES 2022

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The Details

**Passage of “Special Education Services in Charter Schools” (HB1294)**, a landmark piece of legislation that will grant charter schools more autonomy to better serve students with special needs.

Another **$10 million** in funding towards Charter School Capital Construction. This increases the Charter School Capital Construction Fund to $42 million next year up from its current level of $31.5 million. This represents the largest year-over-year increase on record and means that we have successfully increased the fund by 500% since just 2014.

An additional **$8 million** in funding towards CSI equalization. This nearly doubles the equalization funding available to CSI schools next year.

A **6.1% increase** in per-pupil funding. This increase will raise our state’s average PPR to its **highest level ever ($9,560)** next school year.

An additional **$80 million in SPED funding**. This increases next year’s special education funding for Tier A students from $1,250 to $1,750 per student and for Tier B students from $3,392 to $4,530 per student.

**And perhaps equally as important are the things that DIDN’T happen**

- Inclusion of charters in threatening collective bargaining legislation
- The return of harmful legislation that would undercut the charter appeals process and make it virtually impossible for charter schools to ever overturn negative district decisions against them.

This year **The League worked to shape public policy and opinion that favors charter schools.** Our bipartisan relationships and collective advocacy strength are a big part of the reason why we’ve been able to fend off negative attacks and secure another very successful year for our schools.
51%

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

Here are three datasets from the last few years that demonstrate our track record.

1. **School PPR in Colorado**
   - 2014-15: $7,026
   - 2015-16: $7,321
   - 2016-17: $7,421
   - 2017-18: $7,622
   - 2018-19: $8,123
   - 2019-20: $8,489
   - 2020-21: $8,123
   - 2021-22: $9,015
   - 2022-23: $9,560
   - Percentage of increase over nine years: 36%

2. **CSI Equalization Fund**
   - Fiscal Year 2018-19: $5.5M
   - Fiscal Year 2019-20: $7M
   - Fiscal Year 2020-21: $5.6M
   - Fiscal Year 2021-22: $9M
   - Fiscal Year 2022-23: $17M

3. **Charter School Capital Construction Fund**
   - 2014-15: $7M
   - 2015-16: $13.5M
   - 2016-17: $22M
   - 2017-18: $25M
   - 2019-20: $28.6M
   - 2020-21: $31.82M
   - 2021-22: $31.52M
   - 2022-23: $41.91M

Overall growth between 2014 and 2023 represents a 500% increase.