

1. *What is an accreditation contract?*

While CSI is accredited by the Colorado Department of Education, each CSI school is accredited by CSI. The accreditation contract describes the CSI School's level of attainment on the state performance indicators as measured by the CSI accreditation system known as the "CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS)", the CSI School's performance plan type, and assures compliance with the provisions of Title 22 and other applicable laws.

State law requires that each CSI School has an accreditation contract, and describes the information that must be in each accreditation contract. The accreditation contract is distinct from the charter contract, and it may change from year-to-year or more frequently depending on the school's plan type and individual circumstances.

2. *Is the accreditation contract a new requirement?*

No. Most existing CSI schools have an accreditation contract. However, the date the accreditation contract was last executed depends on the CSI School's prior performance and the year in which the CSI School was authorized.

3. *Why were there revisions to the 2018 accreditation contract?*

There have been revisions made to the accreditation contracts beginning July 1, 2018. The accreditation contract has been revised to reflect changes to the [CSI Accreditation Policy](#) and in light of the implementation of CARS 2.0.

4. *What are the key changes to the accreditation contract?*

The foremost change to the accreditation contract relates to the term and re-negotiation of the contract. Prior to the accreditation contracts beginning July 1, 2018, the accreditation contracts had a term of one-year and were automatically renewed each year provided the CSI School was accredited with a rating of Improvement or higher. CSI Schools with a rating of Priority Improvement or Turnaround were required to re-execute the accreditation contract annually.

Beginning July 1, 2018, the contracts still have a term of one-year; however, it is only renewed automatically if the CSI School remains in the accreditation category of Distinction or Performance. CSI Schools accredited with a rating of Improvement, Priority Improvement, or Turnaround must re-execute the accreditation contract annually. All schools, regardless of plan type, will re-execute the accreditation contract upon renewal.

There are other non-material changes made to the accreditation contract to bring it more in line with state law requirements.

5. *Why were the changes to the term and renegotiation of the contract made?*

The changes to the process for re-executing the accreditation contract were made in order to bring greater awareness of the CSI accreditation system to school leaders and school boards and make the accreditation contract more meaningful and to reflect the revised CSI Accreditation Policy and CARS 2.0.

6. Who must sign the accreditation contract?

The Board Chair of the CSI School and the School Leader must sign the accreditation contract on behalf of the CSI School. The CSI Executive Director signs on behalf of CSI.

7. How does the accreditation contract differ for Alternative Education Campuses (“AECs”)?

Although the state requires an additional performance indicator for AECs (student engagement), the accreditation contract itself does not differ for AECs.

8. Do new schools receive an accreditation rating?

Yes. CSI issues accreditation ratings to new schools via the Pre-Opening CSI Review of Schools (PCARS) system, which evaluates a school’s performance in Year 0 (the year between application approval and school opening) and ultimately leads to the determination of a school’s Year 1 accreditation rating. The PCARS evaluation system provides evaluative information about a school’s performance prior to the availability of academic assessment data. PCARS evaluates a school’s risk assessment as determined by the CSI Application Review Team, as well as a body of evidence from Year 0 including Organizational Performance, Financial Performance, and Readiness and Onboarding task Performance.

9. When will I receive the accreditation contract?

For new schools and CSI Schools that must re-execute the contract because they are going through renewal or received an accreditation rating of Improvement, Priority Improvement, or Turnaround, the accreditation contract will be sent out following the release of each school’s CARS rating.

10. Where can I find more information about accreditation contracts?

For an overview of the legal requirements, 2018 changes to the accreditation contract, and accreditation contract process, please review the 2018 Accreditation Contracts Webinar.

More information on accreditation contract requirements can be found here:

- [CSI Accreditation Policy](#)
- [2018 Accreditation Contracts Webinar](#)
- [State Board Rules for the Administration of Statewide Accountability Measures for the Colorado Public School System, Charter School Institute, Public School Districts and Public Schools, 1 CCR 301-1](#)
- [C.R.S. 22-11-307](#). Accreditation of Public Schools

11. Who can I contact for more information on the accreditation contract?

For questions on the accreditation contract, please contact Ryan Marks, Director of Evaluation and Assessment (ryanmarks@csi.state.co.us; 303.866.2572).