

Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) is the statewide authorizer for 43 charter public schools located in 23 towns and cities across Colorado. Our diverse portfolio of innovative schools includes various in person educational programs, blended learning, online programs, part-time, and other models to support the diverse needs of Colorado's students and families.

In the Spring of 2020, each CSI school identified a committee of stakeholders, including teacher and family representatives, that developed a COVID-19 Response Plan for 2020-2021 school year. Plans addressed in-person and remote learning structures, layered mitigation strategies to reduce virus transmission, and strategies for implementing federal, state and local health mandates and Colorado Department of Education school specific recommendations. CSI staff reviewed and approved plans prior to the first day of school.

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, CSI offered support to schools in new ways to specifically address the health, safety, and virus mitigation efforts of our schools.

- We provided public health resources, information, and access to public health officials that has aided the efforts of schools to address the impact of the pandemic evident inside and outside the classroom. CSI staff regularly attended state and local public health information sessions that addressed virus spread, mitigation strategies, and public health requirements. This allowed us to communicate public health updates and recommend strategies that were timely and relevant to CSI charter schools.
- Responding to the varying needs across the state, each CSI school was assigned a CSI staff member who served as a "support contact" throughout the year. These support contacts had regular communication with school leaders as they navigated the school year. Recognizing the challenge in procuring personal protective equipment (PPE), CSI connected with a multi-state cooperative to procure safety equipment on behalf of schools and supported schools in accessing COVID tests and masks for staff and students.
- CSI also worked to secure grant funding related to health initiatives, partnered with organizations to equip students and staff with the tools to build resilience, and expanded school food service offerings through the CSI School Food Authority.

On the first day of school for 2020-2021, 43% of CSI schools started with full-time in-person learning, 40% started with a hybrid model of instruction and 17% were fully remote. Additionally, all schools offered a full-remote option for families who were uncomfortable returning to in-person learning. By the end of the school year, 69% of schools were in-person, 29% were hybrid and 2% were remote. Schools monitored the Colorado COVID-19 dashboard to make decisions about shifts in learning modality and worked directly with their Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) to contract trace and determine the need for quarantines.

# 2021-2022 Plan for In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

## Important Dates

### June 15, 2021

- CSI Board of Directors passed a resolution concerning in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- CSI schools submitted
  - Board-Approved Calendars and Bell Schedules, specifying student contact time in brick-and-mortar settings as well as any selected remote learning options.
  - Remote Learning Assurances verifying that at a minimum 20% of remote learning would be conducted through synchronous instructional methods.
  - Board-Approved Policy/Resolution that addressed the implementation of learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including a definition of “educational process”, a description of instructional delivery outlining synchronous and asynchronous modes of instruction that may be offered, and the methodology for documenting attendance for asynchronous instruction.

### July 26 – September 7, 2021

- First Day of School (varies by school)

### August 16, 2021

- CSI schools submitted updated Learning Plans to CSI for review

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### November 16, 2021

- CSI Safe Return to Learn Plan reviewed by CSI Board of Directors, public comment is collected

### January 31, 2022

- CSI schools provide any updates to their Safe Return to Learn Plans for review by CSI staff

### March 31, 2022

- CSI Safe Return to Learn Plan reviewed by CSI Board of Directors, any updates are posted to CSI’s website

## Addressing Academic Needs

CSI believes that students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority. 100% of CSI schools will begin the 2021-2022 school year with full-time, in-person instruction with layered prevention strategies in place. Schools have also designated alternate modes of instruction that may be used to respond to increased rates of COVID-19 in the school community or their county.

School	As-Needed Hybrid	Temporary Remote	Emergency Remote
Academy of Arts & Knowledge		x	
Animas High School	x	x	
Ascent Classical Academy-Douglas County		x	x
Ascent Classical Academy-Northern Colorado		x	x
Axis International Academy		x	x
Caprock Academy		x	
Colorado Early College-Aurora	x	x	x
Colorado Early College-Castle Rock	x	x	x
Colorado Early College-Colorado Springs	x	x	x
Colorado Early College-Fort Collins	x	x	x
Colorado Early College-Fort Collins West	x	x	x
Colorado Early College-Inverness	x	x	x

School	As-Needed Hybrid	Temporary Remote	Emergency Remote
Colorado Early College-Parker	x	x	x
Colorado Early College-Windsor	x	x	x
Colorado International Language Academy		x	x
Colorado Military Academy	x	x	x
Colorado Springs Charter Academy		x	
Community Leadership Academy & Victory Prep Academy	x	x	x
Coperni 2		x	
Coperni 3		x	
Crown Pointe Academy		x	x
Early College of Arvada		x	
Global Village Academy-Northglenn		x	x
Golden View Classical Academy		x	
High Point Academy		x	
James Irwin Charter Academy		x	
Kwiyagat Community Academy		x	
Montessori del Mundo	x	x	x
Monument View Montessori Charter School		x	
Mountain Middle School	x	x	x
Mountain Song Community School	x	x	x
New America School-Aurora	x	x	x
New Legacy Charter School	x		x
Pinnacle Charter School	x	x	
Ricardo Flores Magon Academy	x		
Ross Montessori School		x	
Salida Montessori Charter School	x	x	x
Steamboat Montessori Charter School	x	x	
Stone Creek Charter School		x	x
The Academy of Charter Schools		x	
Thomas MacLaren School	x (upper school only)	x	x
Two Rivers Community School		x	

### 100% Remote Learning Option

After surveying school community stakeholders, the following schools will offer a 100% remote option to families for the 2021-2022 school year.

School	
Colorado Early College-Aurora	
Colorado Early College-Castle Rock	
Colorado Early College-Colorado Springs	
Colorado Early College-Fort Collins	
Colorado Early College-Fort Collins West	
Colorado Early College-Inverness	
Colorado Early College-Parker	
Colorado Early College-Windsor	
Colorado International Language Academy	French Homeschool Enrichment Only
Colorado Military Academy	
Community Leadership Academy & Victory Prep Academy	
Mountain Song Community School	Homeschool Program Only
Pinnacle Charter School	
Steamboat Montessori Charter School	
Stone Creek Charter School	

## Expanding Mental Health Supports

The pandemic increased the prevalence of mental health needs of teachers and students, on top of the already heightened mental health issues within our state. CSI is in the process of expanding mental health resources, consultation, problem-solving, and training in 2021-22. CSI has hired a full-time Mental Health Program Specialist to work directly with schools on programming to support this area of engagement that is critical to the success of students. As the pandemic continues to impact our communities CSI will leverage relationships and resources nurtured over the past year in order to ensure CSI schools have the latest and most relevant public health information and resources they need to prioritize student learning and the wellness of their school community.

CSI schools have planned to leverage their American Rescue Plan Funds to increase mental health staffing, adopt social emotional learning curricula and contract with local agencies to provide increased mental health supports for students and the school community.

## Providing Access During Shifts to Remote Learning

CSI schools have surveyed their families and are aware of technology and internet access needs among their community. They are prepared to distribute devices and internet hot spots as needed in the event of a shift to remote learning due to COVID-19. Distribution procedures utilized in 2020-2021 have been evaluated and improved as needed for this school year.

CSI schools have outlined plans for continuity of instruction that ensure a minimum of 20% synchronous instructional time during instances of remote learning. Service provision for students with special needs will continue to be implemented during remote learning.

## Layered Prevention Strategies

CSI schools implement layered prevention strategies to keep COVID-19 out of their buildings and maintain continuity of in-person learning to the greatest extent possible.

### Promoting Vaccination

CDC recommends that all teachers, staff and eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Vaccine Support Teams and mobile buses offer CSI schools the opportunity to host regularly occurring vaccine clinics for the school community. CSI schools may promote vaccination and/or choose to host vaccine clinics at their schools.

### Consistent and Correct Mask Use

CDC requires face coverings for those aged 2 and above on all public transportation regardless of vaccine status. This includes drivers and passengers on school buses unless the bus driver is riding in the school bus alone. CSI schools will adhere to the federal requirement to wear masks for daily school bus transportation and for school bus transportation for school related activities.

Currently, mask requirements for indoor spaces are determined by Colorado LPHAs. CSI schools adhere to the local mask requirements in their respective counties. In the absence of mask

requirements from the LPHA, CSI schools may recommend or require staff, students and/or visitors to wear masks at school.

### **[Physical Distancing](#)**

CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms. Because of the importance of in-person learning, CDC recommends that schools implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.

CSI schools maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible while indoors. If CSI schools are experiencing moderate-to-high transmission levels, CSI schools may shift to 6 feet of physical distancing and/or cohorting procedures that they instituted during the 2020-2021 school year.

### **[Screening Testing](#)**

In K-12 schools, screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education. CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing and do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms.

CDPHE is providing all K-12 Colorado schools with a free and voluntary COVID-19 screening testing program. CSI schools may choose to participate in this program and will require parental consent for any student prior to participating.

### **[Ventilation](#)**

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems.

CSI schools may keep classroom windows and doors open to increase ventilation. Additionally a number of schools have upgraded HVAC systems and created outdoor learning spaces.

### **[Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette](#)**

CSI schools provide frequently reminders and opportunities for handwashing and may provide hand sanitizer for staff and student use.

### **[Staying Home when Sick/Getting Tested](#)**

CSI schools encourage staff and students to stay at home when they are experiencing symptoms of illness using CDPHE's [How Sick is Too Sick](#) guidance. CSI schools may also require at-home symptom screening.

If a student becomes sick at school, CSI schools refer to CDPHE's [Addressing Symptoms at School](#). All CSI schools have procedures for isolating students with COVID-19 symptoms until they can be picked up from school.

### **[Contact Tracing](#)**

CSI schools collaborate with their LPHA, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. This

allows identifying which students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should isolate, and which close contacts should quarantine.

**Cleaning and Disinfection**

CSI schools have implemented procedures to increase regular cleaning and disinfecting of the building. In addition, schools may limit shared use of materials and/or have additional procedures for cleaning and disinfecting commonly used materials.

**Levels of Community Risk and Phased Prevention**

CSI’s Public Health Liaison regularly attends state and local public health information sessions that address virus spread, mitigation strategies, and public health requirements in order to communicate timely and relevant public health updates to CSI schools. School leaders receive weekly updates and can also access information and resources on [CSI’s COVID-19 Updates webpage](#).

CSI schools fall under the jurisdiction of the various local public health agencies (LPHA). CSI school leaders collaborate with partners at their LPHA to stay informed of local public health orders, procedures for reporting positive cases, and determination of risk of transmission. Schools report positive cases, quarantines and shifts to remote or hybrid learning to CSI. Decisions regarding length of quarantine periods and shifts to remote or hybrid learning are made in consultation with LPHA based on levels of community transmission.

LPHA	School
Chafee County Public Health <a href="https://www.chaffecounty.org/Public-Health-Coronavirus">https://www.chaffecounty.org/Public-Health-Coronavirus</a>	Salida Montessori Charter School
Eagle County Public Health	Stone Creek Charter School
El Paso County Public Health <a href="https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/schools-child-care-and-online-learning">https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/schools-child-care-and-online-learning</a>	Colorado Early College-Colorado Springs
	Colorado International Language Academy
	Colorado Military Academy
	Colorado Springs Charter Academy
	Coperni 2
	Coperni 3
	James Irwin Charter Academy
	Mountain Song Community School
	Thomas Maclaren School
Garfield County Public Health <a href="https://www.garfield-county.com/public-health/novel-coronavirus/">https://www.garfield-county.com/public-health/novel-coronavirus/</a>	Ross Montessori School
	Two Rivers Community School
Jefferson County Public Health <a href="https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19">https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19</a>	Early College of Arvada
	Golden View Classical Academy
Larimer County Public Health <a href="https://www.larimer.org/health/communicable-disease/coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.larimer.org/health/communicable-disease/coronavirus-covid-19</a>	Academy of Arts and Knowledge
	Ascent Classical Academy-Northern Colorado
	AXIS International Academy
	Colorado Early College-Fort Collins
	Colorado Early College-Fort Collins West
Colorado Early College-Windsor	

LPHA	School
Mesa County Public Health <a href="https://health.mesacounty.us/saferathome/">https://health.mesacounty.us/saferathome/</a>	Caprock Academy Monument View Montessori
Ute Mountain Ute Health Services <a href="https://www.utemountainutetribes.com/health%20services%20departments.html">https://www.utemountainutetribes.com/health%20services%20departments.html</a>  <i>*may also collaborate with Montezuma County Public Health Agency</i> <a href="https://montezumacounty.org/public-health/covid-19-information-and-resources/">https://montezumacounty.org/public-health/covid-19-information-and-resources/</a>	Kwiyagat Community Academy*
Routt County Public Health <a href="https://www.covid19routtcounty.com/">https://www.covid19routtcounty.com/</a>	Steamboat Montessori School
San Juan Basin Public Health <a href="https://sjbpublichealth.org/coronavirus/">https://sjbpublichealth.org/coronavirus/</a>	Animas High School Mountain Middle School
Tri County Public Health* <a href="https://www.tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19">https://www.tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19</a>  As <a href="#">Douglas County</a> , <a href="#">Adams County</a> and <a href="#">Arapahoe County</a> Public Health Departments are established, CSI schools will work with the LPHA of their respective county.	Ascent Classical Academy-Douglas County Colorado Early College-Aurora Colorado Early College-Castle Rock Colorado Early College-Inverness Colorado Early College-Parker Community Leadership Academy & Victory Prep Academy Crown Pointe Academy Global Village Academy-Northglenn High Point Academy Montessori del Mundo New America School-Aurora New Legacy Charter School Pinnacle Charter School Ricardo Flores Magon Academy The Academy of Charter Schools