

COLORADO CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Cover Page

School Colorado Skies Academy	Contract Type Transfer
Charter Term Start July 1, 2024	Contract Number T-2024-2
Charter Term Expiration June 30, 2027	Term Type 3year, with potential 2year extension
Maximum Charter Term Expiration June 30, 2029	Institute Resolution Number 24-05-02
Original Charter Term Start July 1, 2024	Geographic/Accounting District Cherry Creek School District
Full-Time Grades Served 6-8	Homeschool Enrichment Grades Served N/A
<p>School Mission: Colorado Skies Academy will inspire learners to take flight academically and personally through relevant project-based learning instruction. Using comprehensive STEAM and SEL programs, our young people will be prepared to pursue goals and succeed in future educational endeavors and careers. They will create meaningful aerospace connections and develop positive relationships to support their journey.</p>	
<p>School Vision: Colorado SKIES Academy envisions being a middle school dedicated to fostering creative, innovative, and critical thought through an aerospace focused curriculum. We see all learners being provided with the opportunity to explore, develop, and achieve their dreams in aerospace and beyond. Our school will produce successful and fearless young leaders who demonstrate integrity, grit, and honesty through academic excellence.</p>	
<p>Exhibits The following Exhibits are included with this Contract: Exhibit A – Milestones Exhibit B – Maximum Projected Enrollment Exhibit C – Requested Waivers Exhibit D – Resolution to Approve the Charter Application Exhibit E – Transportation Addendum Exhibit F – Food Service Addendum Exhibit G – Online Learning Addendum Exhibit H – Educational Service Provider Addendum Exhibit I – Preschool Addendum Exhibit J – Homeschool Enrichment Addendum</p>	

Signature Page

THE PARTIES HERETO HAVE EXECUTED THIS CONTRACT.

<p>COLORADO SKIES ACADEMY</p> <p>By: <u>Tommy Bryan</u> <small>Tommy Bryan (May 23, 2024 11:11 MDT)</small></p> <p>Chairperson, Board of Directors</p> <p>Date: <u>05/23/24</u></p>	<p>COLORADO CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE</p> <p>By: <u>Brenda Dickhoner</u> <small>Brenda Dickhoner (May 22, 2024 14:39 MDT)</small></p> <p>Chairperson, Board of Directors</p> <p>Date: <u>05/22/24</u></p>
	<p>LEGAL REVIEW: Philip J. Weiser, Attorney General</p> <p>By: <u>Joe Peters</u> <small>Joe Peters (May 22, 2024 15:43 MDT)</small></p> <p>Assistant Attorney General</p> <p>Date: <u>05/22/24</u></p>

EXHIBIT C: REQUESTED WAIVERS

Contact Information
School Name: Colorado SKIES Academy (CSA)
School Address (mailing): 13025 Wings Way Englewood, CO 80112
Charter School Waiver Contact Name: Christa Coryell
Charter School Waiver Contact Phone Number: (720)400-7612
Charter School Waiver Contact Email: christa.coryell@coloradoskiesacademy.org
Charter School Institute Waiver Contact Name: Stephanie Aragon
Charter School Institute Waiver Contact Phone Number: 720-315-6042
Charter School Institute Waiver Contact Email: legalandpolicy_CSI@csi.state.co.us

Automatic Waivers	
State Statute Citation	Description
C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(f)	Local board duties concerning selection of staff and pay
C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(t)	Determine educational program and prescribe textbooks
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(h)	Local board powers-Terminate employment of personnel
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(i)	Local board duties-Reimburse employees for expenses
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(j)	Local board powers-Procure life, health, or accident insurance
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(k)(1)	Local board powers-Policies relating the in-service training and official conduct
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(ee)	Local board powers-Employ teachers' aides and other non-certificated personnel
C.R.S. § 22-32-126	Employment and authority of principals
C.R.S. § 22-33-104(4)	Compulsory school attendance-Attendance policies and excused absences
C.R.S. § 22-63-301	Teacher Employment Act- Grounds for dismissal
C.R.S. § 22-63-302	Teacher Employment Act-Procedures for dismissal of teachers

C.R.S. § 22-63-401	Teacher Employment Act-Teachers subject to adopted salary schedule
C.R.S. § 22-63-402	Teacher Employment Act-Certificate required to pay teachers
C.R.S. § 22-63-403	Teacher Employment Act-Describes payment of salaries
C.R.S. § 22-1-112	School Year-National Holidays

Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

C.R.S. § 22-9-106 Local Board Duties Concerning Performance Evaluations

C.R.S. § 22-2-112(1)(q)(l) Commissioner-Duties – Reporting Performance Evaluations

Rationale: CSA and its Director or designee must have the ability to perform the evaluation of all personnel. Should any other designated administrator not have a Principal License, this should not preclude him or her from administering the evaluations under the direction of the Director. The Board of Directors must also have the ability to perform the evaluation for the school leader. Additionally, CSA should not be required to report its teacher evaluation ratings as a part of the commissioner’s report as required by C.R.S. § 22-9-106, but will still report on in-field/out-of-field.

Replacement Plan: Instead, the CSA uses its own evaluation system that meets the intent of the law as outlined in statute. Staff are annually trained in this evaluation system. The methods used for the school’s evaluation system include quality standards that are clear and relevant to the administrators’ and teachers’ roles and responsibilities, are based on research-based practices guiding the science of reading, have the goal of improving student academic growth, and meet the intent of the quality standards established in C.R.S. §§ 22-9-101 et seq. The school will not be required to report its teacher evaluation data through applicable state collections; however, teacher performance ratings data will be reviewed by the school and used to inform hiring practices and professional development. Core course level participation will continue to be reported pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-11-503.5, as this is a non-waivable statute.

Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact: CSA anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on CSI or the school.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: Since teacher performance has a critical impact on the performance of the entire school, the impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to CSA, as set forth in the charter contract.

Expected Outcome: If granted, the waiver will enable CSA to implement its program and evaluate its teachers in accordance with its Performance Appraisal System, which is designed to produce greater accountability and be consistent with the school’s goals and objectives. This will benefit staff members as well as students and the community.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(I) Local Board Duties Concerning School Calendar

C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(B) Adopt district calendar

C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(A) Determine Teacher-pupil contact hours

Rationale: The school year at the school will total approximately 169 days per year, which exceeds the current contact hour requirement in state statute. CSA will always meet at least the minimum required time as detailed in state law.

Replacement Plan: CSA will prescribe the actual details of its own school calendar to best meet the needs of its students. As such, the school will have a calendar that may differ from the rest of the schools within the geographic district. The final calendar and CSA's daily schedule will be designed by the school's Board of Directors and will meet or exceed the requirements in state statute. In accordance with Charter School Institute ("CSI") policy, CSA will submit its calendar annually to CSI for review and will not make any material modifications to the calendar without notification to CSI.

Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact: CSA anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on CSI or the school.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the charter contract.

Expected Outcome: As a result of this waiver, CSA will be able to operate in accordance with its own schedule, designed to meet the needs of its community and educational program, which is vital to the success of its program.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

C.R.S. § 22-33-105(7)(a)(II) Process for Disciplinary Appeals

Rationale: As a Charter School Institute ("CSI") charter school, CSA's governing board must have the ability to hear disciplinary and related appeals under C.R.S. § 22-33-105(2)(c).

Replacement Plan: The charter contract delegates the authority to implement the School Attendance Law of 1963 to the school administration, which is consistent with state law; however, as opposed to the Colorado Charter School Institute ("CSI") carrying out the functions of a school district and its board, the governing board of the school will carry out those functions. To ensure that the school is meeting the intent of the law, the school will involve its legal counsel and CSI in any appeals to the governing board to ensure that students are being afforded appropriate due process. The school has developed a policy for carrying out the requirements of C.R.S. § 22-33-105 for review and approval by CSI. In addition, the school will report expulsion data pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-33-105(2.5).

Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.
Financial Impact: CSA anticipates that the requested Waiver will have minimal financial impact on the school and no financial impact on CSI.
How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: The school will be required to record all data involving suspensions and expulsions with access for review by both CSI and the school's governing board. In addition, the school's governing board will develop policies and procedures for suspensions, expulsions, and denial of admission for review and approval by CSI.
Expected Outcome: The outcome will be a fair and supportive process for CSA to make appropriate determinations regarding the School Attendance Law of 1963 at the local level, with administrative oversight by CSI.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan
C.R.S. § 22-63-201 Employment Certificate Required
Rationale: The school must be granted the authority to hire teachers and principals that will support the school's goals and objectives. The principal will not function as a traditional District school principal, but rather will be responsible for a wider range of tasks and act as the school's chief executive officer.

Replacement Plan: CSA will seek to attract principals and teachers from a wide variety of backgrounds, including, but not limited to teachers from out-of-state, teachers with a lapsed Colorado certificate, persons with several years of successful teaching experience in a setting not requiring a license, as well as persons with business or professional experience. All employees of the school will be employed on an at-will basis. All employees of the school will meet applicable fingerprinting and background check requirements. Core instructional staff will meet the guidelines set forth in the Colorado state ESSA plan, specifically (1) endorsement on a Colorado teaching license; (2) holding at least a BA or higher in the relevant subject area; (3) completing 36 semester credit hours in the subject matter in which s/he teaches; or (4) passing a State Board approved content exam in the relevant subject area. Special Education Teachers will hold the requisite state license and endorsement. The school will report the number of in-field/out-of-field teacher designations, years of experience of teachers, or any other requirements promulgated by CDE.
Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.
Financial Impact: CSA anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on CSI or the school.
How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the Charter Agreement.
Expected Outcome: As a result of this waiver, CSA will be able to operate in accordance with its own program and hire teachers that best fit the school's design, which is vital to the success of its program.