



Charter Schools Are Vital for Our Communities

This report, authored by Advance Colorado Growth & Opportunity Fellow and CD8 State Board of Education Member Yazmin Navarro, examines the benefits of charter schools for all students, including the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Charter schools are public schools that offer alternative educational opportunities, often focused on a particular style of learning or key topic of interest like the STEM fields, dual-language immersion, or a classical education. Because of school choice in Colorado, all parents can choose the best educational option for their child, and if they're looking for a public option, this includes charter schools.

In 1993, Colorado became the third state in the country to recognize charter schools in law. The first Colorado charter school opened in Pueblo County. Our state has continued to celebrate its legal and cultural support for charter schools and school choice for over thirty years.

However, in recent years, some liberal legislators have decided to attack charter schools, putting thousands of students across Colorado at risk of losing the education their parents carefully chose for them.

This report looks at the data, which reveals that charter schools specifically benefit our most vulnerable students, including minorities, English language learners, and children from low-income families. Their academic performance soars at charter schools. The report highlights examples of successful charter schools, including James Irwin Charter Schools, which serve a 72% minority student population in Colorado Springs.

Because charter schools have the flexibility to create unique educational experiences and work closely with parents to help children succeed, they can offer a high-quality education for all students.

Charter schools provide:

- The autonomy to develop innovation with flexibility
- The freedom to provide equity and access
- The gift of a specialized focus

For a deeper dive into the data, you can read the full report on our website: www.advancecolorado.org/institute/research-reports/.