

Colorado's Public Charter Schools and COVID

Joint Education Committee Hearing
September 23, 2020

Quality Choice Equity

- Nonprofit, membership organization for Colorado's charter schools
- Serving **90%** of state's 261 charter schools
- **The League** provides: operations support, professional development, trainings, advocacy, policy, and more
- Second **strongest** charter school law in the country

Quality Choice Equity

- 261 schools across 70 different cities and towns
- 128,000 students (14%)
- All are non-profits
 - No such thing as a “private” charter school
- Charters serve a higher % of students of color and English language learners

Restart Plans & Enrollment Projections

- 100% In-Person w/ remote option 45%
- Combo of in-person/remote hybrid 36%
- 100% Remote 18%
- 100% In-Person 7%

- 42% predict a DECREASE
- 42% predict an INCREASE
- 17% predict NO CHANGE

Decision-Making Criteria for Restart Plans

Charters Listen To:

Parents

Teachers

Research

- Parents 82%
- Teachers 82%
- Publicly Available Research 79%
- My District/Authorizer 77%
- Other Charters 61%
- Other Districts/Authorizers 41%
- Other:
 - CDPHE, Local Health Dept. 50%
 - CDE, CLCS 31%

Relationship with Authorizer

90%

Positive

Over 90% of public charter school leaders characterized the current nature of their relationship with their authorizer as “Positive”

Primary Challenges

- Unclear & Changing Guidance from Experts 9%
- Technology 9%
- Balancing in-person w/ remote 7%
- Staffing 7%
- Faculty Workload, Exhaustion 6%
- Financial 6%

Changing Guidance

Most Proud of

Adaptability

- Staff (adaptability, commitment) 25%
- Adaptability/Responsiveness 15%
- Adaptive Parent Choice/Creative Programming Options 9%
- Data-driven Decision-Making (that includes stakeholder voices) 9%
- Community (creative engagement, commitment to/relationship with) 7%
- Technology use/platforms 7%