

**Colorado Charter School Institute**  
Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Report  
2016-2017

The New America School – Thornton



## CSI HISTORY


In response to the growing desire for charter schools, the lack of school options for at-risk students, and the interest in an alternate mode of authorizing charter schools that could assist districts in implementing authorizing best practices, the State Legislature created the Charter School Institute (CSI) in 2004.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Charter School Institute is to foster high-quality public school choices offered through Institute charter schools, including particularly schools that are focused on closing the achievement gap for at-risk students.

## OUR VISION

The vision of the Charter School Institute is to be a national leader as a highly effective charter school authorizer by building a portfolio of high performing public charter schools through authorizing practices that promote a variety of successful and innovative educational designs, including an emphasis on schools that serve at-risk youth.



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## CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Summary

CARS was developed to fulfill statutory requirements and to align with best practice. CARS builds upon the evaluation lens utilized by the State—which evaluates academic achievement, academic growth, and postsecondary and workforce readiness—by including additional measures related to academic, financial, and organizational performance to provide a more comprehensive and robust evaluation that includes strong indicators of charter viability and sustainability. CARS will accomplish three primary objectives:

1. Add to the *body of evidence* that is used to make authorization decisions
2. Determine the school *accreditation rating* that is primarily used to inform authorization pathways
3. Determine the *level of support/intervention* to provide to the school

## CSI Performance Framework

The CSI Performance Framework provides the basis for the CSI Annual Review of Schools. The Performance Framework explicitly defines the measures by which CSI holds schools accountable with regards to academic, financial, and organizational performance. The three areas of performance covered by the frameworks—academic, financial, and organizational—correspond directly with the three components of a strong charter school application, the three key areas of responsibility outlined in strong state charter laws and strong charter school contracts, and are the three areas on which a charter school’s performance should be evaluated. Schools that are designated as Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) are evaluated using the AEC School Performance Framework (SPF) in place of the Academic Framework along with the Financial and Organizational Framework. The AEC SPF is composed of required state measures but may also include additional optional measures. Optional measures are submitted by CSI and approved by CDE for inclusion in the AEC framework.

## CARS Accreditation Ratings

Pursuant to the Colorado Revised Statutes and rules applicable to Colorado school districts and authorizers, CSI is responsible for accrediting its schools in a manner that emphasizes attainment on the four statewide performance indicators, and may, at CSI’s discretion, include additional accreditation indicators and measures. CSI prioritizes academic performance in determining accreditation ratings. Specifically, a base accreditation rating is determined by academic performance on a subset of measures within the Academic Framework. Then, if a subset of measures on the Finance or Organizational Framework are missed, the accreditation rating is lowered



Upon issuance of accreditation ratings, each school enters into an accreditation contract with CSI as required by state law. The accreditation contract describes the school’s CARS accreditation rating, the school’s performance plan type, assures compliance with the provisions of Title 22 and other applicable laws, and describes the consequences for noncompliance and Priority Improvement and Turnaround accreditation plan types. The accreditation contract is distinct from the charter contract, and may change from year-to-year or more frequently depending on the school’s plan type and individual circumstances.

In accordance with the CSI Accreditation Policy, CSI schools accredited with a rating of Improvement, Priority Improvement, or Turnaround must re-execute the accreditation contract annually. For schools accredited Distinction or Performance, the accreditation contract will renew automatically, except all schools, regardless of plan type, will re-execute the accreditation contract upon renewal.

## How to Use the CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Report

This **CARS Report** summarizes the school's cumulative performance and compliance data from required and agreed-upon sources, as collected by CSI over the term of the school's charter. The data collected and presented within this report reflect outcomes along the academic, financial, and organizational measures outlined with the CSI Performance Framework.

In order to summarize each section, CSI will include a *brief* narrative providing feedback on the school's progress within the indicators and/or metrics where applicable. Schools have the opportunity to provide a brief narrative for each section as well. Any additional claims within the school narrative must be substantiated with supplemental evidence that can be verified by CSI. The school narrative should focus on outputs and outcomes. Factors such as culture, curriculum, and PD, for example are important in your internal evaluations and root cause analysis, but are not considered by CSI as a part of your annual evaluation.

Schools should look at trends in the data and use the feedback provided within the report as evidence of success, as well as to identify areas that may need the allocation of additional resources and attention. This can be a useful tool to use in conjunction with the **Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)**.

A majority of the metrics within this report will be collected by CSI on a yearly basis and presented to each school in **November**. As this is the preliminary draft, please review all data collected for accuracy. Should you find any incorrect or inaccurate data (as opposed to findings or conclusions you simply disagree with), please contact the appropriate director:

**Academic Performance:** Ryan Marks

**Financial Performance:** Amanda Karger

**Organizational Performance:** Clare Vickland - State/Federal Programs | Trish Krajniak - Compliance Monitoring

If you wish to supplement any area of your report with additional evidence, these proposed changes or additions must be returned to CSI ([ryanmarks@csi.state.co.us](mailto:ryanmarks@csi.state.co.us)) **no later than November 27th**.

Once all data have been reviewed (and where applicable incorporated into the report), CSI will send each school a final report in **December**. This final version will also contain financial information that is unavailable during the preliminary drafting process. You may use the tables, graphs and narrative of this final report in your UIP.

**Please note:** Interim and formative assessment data submitted by schools as supplemental evidence should be presented in the form of official reports generated by the test vendor, or in the case of locally developed assessments, generated through the official reporting system (e.g., Edusoft). Where this is not possible, exported flat files must be provided. Criteria for submitting additional assessment data include:

- Testing administration date(s), total number of test takers, and total number of enrolled students at the time of administration should be noted with each report.
- Growth data should reflect gains made using the beginning of the year as baseline and the end of the academic year as compared to national, state or pre-approved norms. If seasonal gains are submitted, these must also be accompanied with norms recognized by the nation, state or pre-approved by CSI.
- Regarding other supplemental evidence you wish to submit, any outputs or outcomes submitted that are not calculated and reported by CSI or the State must be accompanied by a Mission-Specific Measures Form, specifying how you quantify the measure (including methodology used to determine, document and calculate your measure).

### CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Rating

The CSI School Performance Framework serves to hold schools accountable for performance on the same, single set of indicators. The CSI Framework builds upon the evaluation lens by the State to include measures that may provide a more detailed and comprehensive summary of charter school performance. CSI's frameworks align with the state frameworks in that they also evaluate schools across the four key performance indicators of academic achievement, academic growth, academic growth gaps, and postsecondary and workforce readiness. The distinguishing feature between the CDE School Performance Framework (SPF) and CSI's Academic Framework is the incorporation of trend data and a comparison to the geographic district, as it is important to ask how a school is performing over time as well as whether the school is better serving the needs of students than area schools. Additionally, the CSI frameworks also include measures outside of the academic realm that are strong predictors of charter viability such as financial health and organizational sustainability.

Framework	Rating
Academic	AEC: Improvement
Financial	Financial performance does not impact the school accreditation rating
Organizational	Organizational performance does not impact the school accreditation rating
<b>Overall Rating</b>	<b>AEC: Improvement</b>

## Plan Type

**AEC: Improvement**

**59.03 / 100**

### Indicator Rating Totals

Indicator	% Pts Earned	Pts Earned/Eligible	Rating
Academic Achievement	49.3%	7.39 / 15.00	Approaching
Academic Growth	74.0%	25.89 / 35.00	Meets
Student Engagement	60.0%	12.00 / 20.00	Approaching
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness	45.8%	13.75 / 30.00	Approaching

Some schools have specialized missions and are designated as Alternative Education Campuses (AECs). These schools serve a student population where either: (1) all students have severe limitations that preclude appropriate administration of state assessments, (2) all students attend on a part-time basis and come from other public schools where the part-time students are counted in the enrollment of the other public school, or (3) more than 95% of the students have either an Individual Education Program and/or meet the definition of a high-risk student, as defined by in the Educational Accountability Act of 2009.

This AEC SPF is composed of required state measures but may also include additional optional measures. The optional measures are submitted by the local district and approved by CDE for inclusion in the AEC framework. Results for these optional measures are provided by the district aggregated at the school level. Districts are encouraged to report three years of data when available.

Measures for the Academic Achievement and Academic Growth indicators have been weighted by N size. For measures in these indicators, points eligible are assigned according to the number of students who participated in each measure. Measures where a greater number of students participated are worth comparatively more weight. The individual weight of each measure in these indicators is derived from: the total points eligible in the indicator (PE), the total number of students represented across all measures in the indicator (Total N), and the total number of students represented in the measure in question (Measure N):

$$\text{Measure Points Eligible} = (\text{Measure N} / \text{Total N}) \times \text{PE}$$

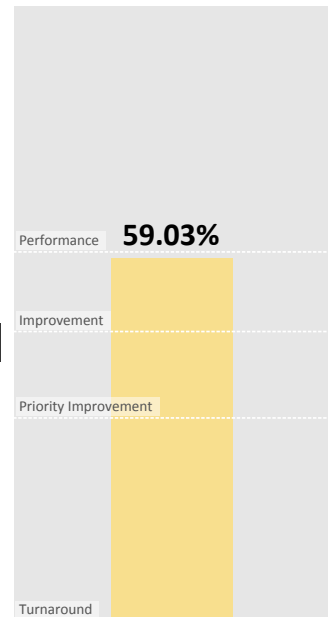
Measures for the Postsecondary Readiness and Student Engagement indicators are not weighted by N size. These measures are apportioned equal weight within the indicator. Please note that due to rounding policies points eligible at the measure level may not sum up perfectly to the total points eligible at the indicator and overall level as displayed.

### Cut-Points for Each Performance Indicator

Academic Achievement; Academic Growth; Student Engagement;	at or above 87.5%	Exceeds
Postsecondary Workforce Readiness	at or above 62.5% - below 87.5%	Meets
	at or above 37.5% - below 62.5%	Approaching
	below 37.5%	Does Not Meet

(\*) Not Applicable; (-) No Reportable Data

(^^) Schools with an Insufficient State Data plan type will maintain their previously assigned year on the clock.



The plan type presented above is based on the total percent of framework points earned out of points eligible:

**AEC Performance:** at or above 60.0%

**AEC Improvement:** at or above 47.0%-below 60.0%

**AEC Priority Improvement:** at or above 33.0%-below 47.0%

**AEC Turnaround:** below 33.0%

**Insufficient Data:** No reportable data

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Required/ Optional	Measure	Subject	Count	Result	Pts Earned/ Eligible	% Pts Earned	Rating
Required State Measures	CMAS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	n < 16	-	0.00 / 0.00	-	-
		MATH	n < 16	-	0.00 / 0.00	-	-
		SCIENCE	94	506.4	0.33 / 0.65	50.0%	Approaching
	CO PSAT	EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING	38	369.7	0.07 / 0.26	25.0%	Does Not Meet
		MATH	38	383.7	0.07 / 0.26	25.0%	Does Not Meet
Optional Measures	NWEA MAP Achievement	Language Usage	622	59.0%	2.17 / 4.33	50.0%	Approaching
		Math	716	52.1%	2.50 / 4.99	50.0%	Approaching
		Reading	646	58.4%	2.25 / 4.50	50.0%	Approaching
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL			7.39 / 15.00	49.3%	Approaching

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES & METRICS

CMAS	Mean Scale Score
CO PSAT	Mean Score on the PSAT
NWEA MAP Achievement	Percent of students scoring at or increasing at least one grade level

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ESTABLISHED NORMS AND CUT-POINTS

Measure	Text	Value	Pts Earned	Rating
CMAS - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	<40th percentile of AECs	650.0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	700.0	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	707.0	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	720.0	1	Exceeds
CMAS - MATH	<40th percentile of AECs	650.0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	700.0	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	706.0	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	720.0	1	Exceeds
CMAS - SCIENCE	<40th percentile of AECs	300.0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	503.0	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	515.0	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	577.0	1	Exceeds
CO PSAT - EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING	<40th percentile of AECs	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	377.4	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	391.0	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	417.4	1	Exceeds
CO PSAT - MATH	<40th percentile of AECs	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	386.6	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	389.5	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	403.0	1	Exceeds
NWEA MAP Achievement	<40% of students	0.0%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60% & >=40% of students	40.00%	0.5	Approaching
	<90% & >=60% of students	60.00%	0.75	Meets
	>=90% of students	90.00%	1	Exceeds

CMAS, CMAS PARCC and CO PSAT results are from 2015-16 and 2016-17. Any other data reported on this page is based on 3 years of aggregated data where available.

(\*) Not Applicable; (-) No Reportable Data

**4699: NEW AMERICA SCHOOL - THORNTON | 8001: CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE**

Level: ALL

## ACADEMIC GROWTH

Required/ Optional	Measure	Subject	Count	Result	Pts Earned/Eligible	% Pts Earned	Rating
Required State Measures	CMAS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	n < 20	-	0.00 / 0.00	-	-
		MATH	n < 20	-	0.00 / 0.00	-	-
	CO PSAT TO SAT	EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WR..	32	42.5	0.26 / 0.51	50.0%	Approaching
		MATH	32	27.5	0.13 / 0.51	25.0%	Does Not Meet
Optional State Measures	NWEA MAP RIT Change Percentile	Language Usage	671	62.0	7.97 / 10.62	75.0%	Meets
		Math	773	68.0	9.17 / 12.23	75.0%	Meets
		Reading	704	71.0	8.36 / 11.14	75.0%	Meets
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL			25.89 / 35.00	74.0%	Meets

## ACADEMIC GROWTH MEASURES & METRICS

CMAS	Median Growth Percentile (MGP)
CO PSAT TO SAT	Median Growth Percentile (MGP)
NWEA MAP RIT Change Percentile	Percentile rank of the change in students' RIT points across testing windows

## ACADEMIC GROWTH ESTABLISHED NORMS AND CUT-POINTS

Measure	Text	Value	Pts Earned	Rating
CMAS - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	<35 MGP	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<50 & >=35 MGP	35.0	0.5	Approaching
	<65 & >=50 MGP	50.0	0.75	Meets
	>=65 MGP	65.0	1	Exceeds
CMAS - MATH	<35 MGP	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<50 & >=35 MGP	35.0	0.5	Approaching
	<65 & >=50 MGP	50.0	0.75	Meets
	>=65 MGP	65.0	1	Exceeds
CO PSAT TO SAT - EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING	<35 MGP	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<50 & >=35 MGP	35.0	0.5	Approaching
	<65 & >=50 MGP	50.0	0.75	Meets
	>=65 MGP	65.0	1	Exceeds
CO PSAT TO SAT - MATH	<35 MGP	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<50 & >=35 MGP	35.0	0.5	Approaching
	<65 & >=50 MGP	50.0	0.75	Meets
	>=65 MGP	65.0	1	Exceeds
NWEA MAP RIT Change Percentile	<40th percentile rank	1.0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th & >=40th percentile rank	40.0	0.5	Approaching
	<90th & >=60th percentile rank	60.0	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile rank	90.0	1	Exceeds

CMAS results are from 2015-16 and 2016-17. CO PSAT to SAT results are from 2016-17. Any other data reported on this page is based on 3 years of aggregated data where available.  
 (\*) Not Applicable; (-) No Reportable Data

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Level: ALL

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Required/ Optional	Measure	Subject	Count	Result	Pts Earned/ Eligible	% Pts Earned	Rating
Required State Measures	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	-	74.9%	1.00 / 4.00	25.0%	Does Not Meet
	TRUANCY	TRUANCY	-	21.8%	1.00 / 4.00	25.0%	Does Not Meet
Optional Measures	Jeffco District Wide Student Survey	Subconstruct Mean	120	3.1	3.00 / 4.00	75.0%	Meets
	Returning Student Rate	Returning Student Rate	734	77.2%	3.00 / 4.00	75.0%	Meets
	Student Discipline Rate	NAS Thornton	1,792	6.7%	4.00 / 4.00	100.0%	Exceeds
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL			12.00 / 20...	60.0%	Approaching

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT MEASURES & METRICS

ATTENDANCE	Average daily attendance rate of the school
TRUANCY	Truancy rate of the school
Jeffco District Wide Student Survey	Positive survey response rate
Returning Student Rate	Percent of student completing the prior year at this school who re-enrolled for fall
Student Discipline Rate	Percent of unduplicated students with a behavior incident

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ESTABLISHED NORMS AND CUT-POINTS

Measure	Text	Value	Pts Earned	Rating
ATTENDANCE	<40th percentile of AECs	0.0%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	80.20%	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	86.50%	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	94.80%	1	Exceeds
TRUANCY	<40th percentile of AECs	11.91%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	7.81%	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	0.01%	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	0.0%	1	Exceeds
Jeffco District Wide Student Survey	<1.75 subconstruct mean	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<2.5 & >=1.75 subconstruct mean	1.8	0.5	Approaching
	<3.25 & >=2.5 subconstruct mean	2.5	0.75	Meets
	>=3.25 subconstruct mean	3.3	1	Exceeds
Returning Student Rate	<40% of students	0.0%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60% & >=40% of students	40.00%	0.5	Approaching
	<90% & >=60% of students	60.00%	0.75	Meets
	>=90% of students	90.00%	1	Exceeds
Student Discipline Rate	<=6.9% of students	0.0%	1	Exceeds
	>6.9% & <=8.4% of students	6.91%	0.75	Meets
	>8.4% & <=9.9% of students	8.41%	0.5	Approaching
	>9.9% of students	9.91%	0.25	Does Not Meet

All data reported on this page is based on 3 years of aggregated data where available.

(\*) Not Applicable; (-) No Reportable Data

## POSTSECONDARY & WORKFORCE READINESS

Required/ Optional	Measure	Subject	Count	Result	Pts Earned/ Eligible	% Pts Earned	Rating
Required State Measures	CO SAT	EBRW <sup>^</sup>	44	407.0	1.25 / 5.00	25.0%	Does Not Meet
		MATH	44	384.1	1.25 / 5.00	25.0%	Does Not Meet
	Completion	Completion	168	36.3%	1.25 / 5.00	25.0%	Does Not Meet
	Dropout	Dropout	1,943	22.5%	1.25 / 5.00	25.0%	Does Not Meet
Optional Measures	Post-Completion Success Rate	Post-Completion Success Rate	83	62.7%	3.75 / 5.00	75.0%	Meets
	WorkKeys Certificate	Certificate Earned Rate	63	90.5%	5.00 / 5.00	100.0%	Exceeds
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>13.75 / 30.00</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>Approaching</b>

## POSTSECONDARY & WORKFORCE READINESS MEASURES & METRICS

CO SAT	Mean Score on the SAT
Completion	"Best-of" the 4, 5, 6, or 7-year completion rate
Dropout	Dropout rate of the school
Post-Completion Success Rate	Percent of students with positive educational or workforce outcomes following completion
WorkKeys Certificate	Percent of students who earned at least a Bronze rating on the National Career Readiness Certificate

## POSTSECONDARY & WORKFORCE READINESS ESTABLISHED NORMS AND CUT-POINTS

Measure	Text	Value	Pts Earned	Rating
CO SAT - EBRW <sup>^</sup>	<40th percentile of AECs	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	420.9	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	431.5	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	458.3	1	Exceeds
CO SAT - MATH	<40th percentile of AECs	0	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	399.8	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	406.5	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	424.3	1	Exceeds
Completion	<40th percentile of AECs	0.0%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	40.00%	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	49.50%	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	69.40%	1	Exceeds
Dropout	<40th percentile of AECs	18.20%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60th percentile & >=40th percentile of AECs	12.80%	0.5	Approaching
	<90th percentile & >=60th percentile of AECs	4.60%	0.75	Meets
	>=90th percentile of AECs	0.0%	1	Exceeds
Post-Completion Success Rate	<40% of students	0.0%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60% & >=40% of students	40.00%	0.5	Approaching
	<90% & >=60% of students	60.00%	0.75	Meets
	>=90% of students	90.00%	1	Exceeds
WorkKeys Certificate	<40% of students	0.0%	0.25	Does Not Meet
	<60% & >=40% of students	40.00%	0.5	Approaching
	<90% & >=60% of students	60.00%	0.75	Meets
	>=90% of students	90.00%	1	Exceeds

CO SAT results are from 2016-17. Any other data reported on this page is based on 3 years of aggregated data where available.

(\*) Not Applicable; (-) No Reportable Data; <sup>^</sup>EBRW: Evidence Based Reading and Writing

# Financial Performance

## Fiscal Years 2015-2017 Financial Results

### Government-Wide Financial Statement Metrics

- What is the school's debt?
- What is the school's net asset position?
- Is the school in default with any financial covenants they have with loan agreements?

#### Government-Wide Financial Statement Metrics

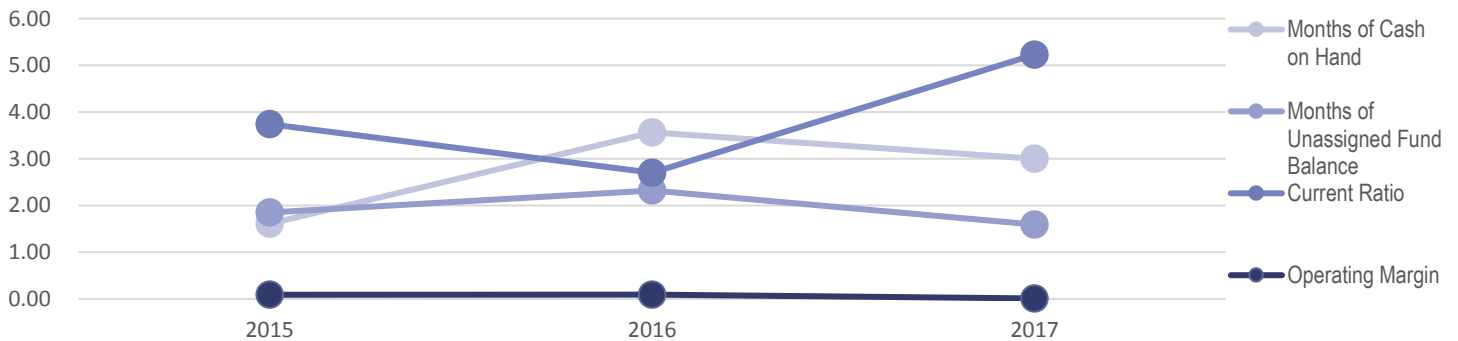
Metric	2015	2016	2017
Debt to Asset Ratio	3.29	2.02	1.85
Change in Net Position	\$ 393,326.00	\$ 8,801.00	\$ (1,482,044.00)
Default	N/A	N/A	NO

### Governmental Funds Financial Statement Metrics

- Has the school met the statutory TABOR emergency reserve requirement?
- What is the school's months of cash on hand?
- What is the school's unassigned fund balance on hand?
- What is the school's current ratio?
- What is the school's aggregate 3-year total margin?

#### Governmental Funds Financial Statement Metrics

Metric	2015	2016	2017
Positive Unassigned Fund Balance (TABOR)	YES	YES	YES
Months of Cash on Hand	1.61	3.56	3.00
Months of Unassigned Fund Balance on Hand	1.85	2.32	1.59
Current Ratio	3.74	2.70	5.23
Operating Margin	9.0%	9.2%	1.0%



### Proprietary Funds Financial Statement Metrics

- What is the school's months of cash on hand?
- What is the school's current ratio?
- What is the school's debt?
- What is the school's net asset position?

#### Proprietary Funds Financial Statement Metrics

Metric	2015	2016	2017
Months of Cash on Hand	N/A	N/A	N/A
Current Ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A
Debt to Asset Ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A
Change in Net Position	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Enrollment

- What is the school's funded pupil count variance?

#### Enrollment

Metric	2015	2016	2017
Funded Pupil Count (FPC) Current-Year Variance	16.4%	0.2%	-10.3%
Change in FPC from Prior-Year	25.0%	-0.1%	-11.6%

## **Fiscal Years 2015-2017 Financial Results**

### Financial Performance Narrative

The New America School - Thornton ended the year with a decrease in net position and reported one statutory violation in the 2016-2017 Assurances for Financial Accreditation Report. The School's adopted budget included a use of beginning fund equity, however the board did not adopt a resolution to authorize the use of beginning fund equity. The school's funded-pupil count came in lower than budgeted by 41 pupils (10 percent), and 47 pupils (11.6 percent) lower than the prior year. As expected of all PERA employers, the school has a high debt to asset ratio due to the inclusion of the PERA Net Pension Liability per GASB no. 68. The decrease in net position is primarily due to changes in the Net Pension Liability for the school as well. The school's governmental funds ended the year with 3 months of cash on hand and enough current assets to cover current liabilities. The school experienced a positive operating margin of 1 percent and decrease in their unassigned fund balance. This decrease in unassigned fund balance is due to an increase in assigned fund balance for future expenditures.

### School Observations

**\*OPTIONAL\*** To be populated by the school and provided to CSI for review and possible inclusion prior to the distribution of the final CARS Report.

# Organizational Performance

## Organizational Performance Metrics

### Education Program

-Is the school complying with applicable education requirements?

*The essential delivery of the education program in all material respects and operation reflects the essential terms of the program as defined in the charter agreement. Includes:*

- *Instructional days or minutes requirements*
- *Graduation and promotion requirements*
- *Alignment with content standards, including Common Core*
- *State-required assessments*
- *Implementation of mandated programming as a result of state or federal funding*

### CSI Review

CSI was not made aware of any issues relating to applicable education requirements for the 2016-17 school year.

### Diversity, Equity of Access, and Inclusion

-Is the school protecting the rights of all students?

*Protecting student rights pursuant to:*

- *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability, consistent with the school's status and responsibilities as a school in a district LEA*
- *Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and US Department of Education authorities relating to English Language Learner requirements*
- *Law, policies and practices related to admissions, lottery, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, enrollment, the collection and protection of student information*
- *Conduct of discipline procedures, including discipline hearings and suspension and expulsion policies and practices, in compliance with CRS 22-33-105 and 22-33-106*
- *Recognition of due process protections, privacy, civil rights and student liberties requirements, including 1st Amendment protections and the Establishment Clause restrictions prohibiting public schools from engaging in religious instruction*

### CSI Review

The School is collaborating with the CSI Student Services Team on diversity, equity of access, and inclusion measures for subgroup populations through the Tiers of Support process. An updated Student Services Screener Report with 16-17 data will be released in January 2018.

While NAS-T has developed procedures to identify gifted students, the school has yet to identify gifted students

### Governance Management

-Is the school complying with governance requirements?

*Includes:*

- *Adequate Board policies and by laws, including those related to oversight of an education service provider, if applicable (CRS 22-30.5-509(s)), and those regarding conflicts of interest, anti-nepotism, excessive compensation, and board composition*
- *Compliance with State open meetings law*
- *Maintaining authority over management, holding it accountable for performance as agreed under a written performance*
- *Requiring annual financial reports of the education service provider (CRS 22-30.5-509(s)), if applicable*

### CSI Review

CSI was not made aware of any issues relating to governance requirements for the 2016-17 school year.

# Organizational Performance

## Organizational Performance Metrics

### Financial Management

-Is the school satisfying financial reporting and compliance requirements?

*Includes:*

- *Compliance with the Financial Transparency Act (CRS 22-44-301)*
- *Complete and on-time submission of financial reports, including financial audit, corrective action plans, annual budget, revised budgets (if applicable), periodic financial reports as required by the authorizer, and any reporting requirements if the board contracts with an education service provider*
- *Meeting all reporting requirements related to the use of public funds*
- *The school's audit is an unqualified audit opinion and devoid of significant findings and conditions, material weaknesses, or significant internal control weaknesses*

### CSI Review

CSI was not made aware of any significant issues relating to financial reporting and compliance requirements.

### School Operations and Environment

-Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?

*Includes:*

- *Up to date fire inspections and related records*
- *Documentation of requisite insurance coverage*
- *Provision of appropriate nursing services and dispensing of pharmaceuticals, including compliance with 1 CCR 301-68*
- *Compliance with food services requirements, if applicable*
- *Maintaining the security of and provide access to student records under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act*
- *Access to documents maintained by the school protected under the state's freedom of information law*
- *Timely transfer of student records*
- *Proper and secure maintenance of testing materials*
- *Up to date emergency response plan, including compliance with NIMS requirements*

-Is the school complying with facilities and transportation requirements?

*Includes:*

- *Viable certificate of occupancy or other required building use authorization*
- *Student transportation safety requirements, if applicable*

-Is the school complying with employee credentialing and background check requirements?

*Includes:*

- *Highly Qualified Teacher and Paraprofessional requirements within Title II of the ESEA relating to state certification*
- *Performing background checks of all applicable individuals*
- *Complying with state employment requirements*

### CSI Review

CSI was not made aware of any issues relating to health and safety requirements for the 2016-17 school year.

CSI was not made aware of any issues relating to facilities and transportation requirements for the 2016-17 school year.

CSI was not made aware of any issues relating to credentialing and background check requirements for the 2016-17 school year.

### Additional Obligations

-Is the school complying with all other obligations?

### CSI Review

CSI was not made aware of any other significant organizational compliance concerns during the 2016-17 school year.

## Organizational Performance

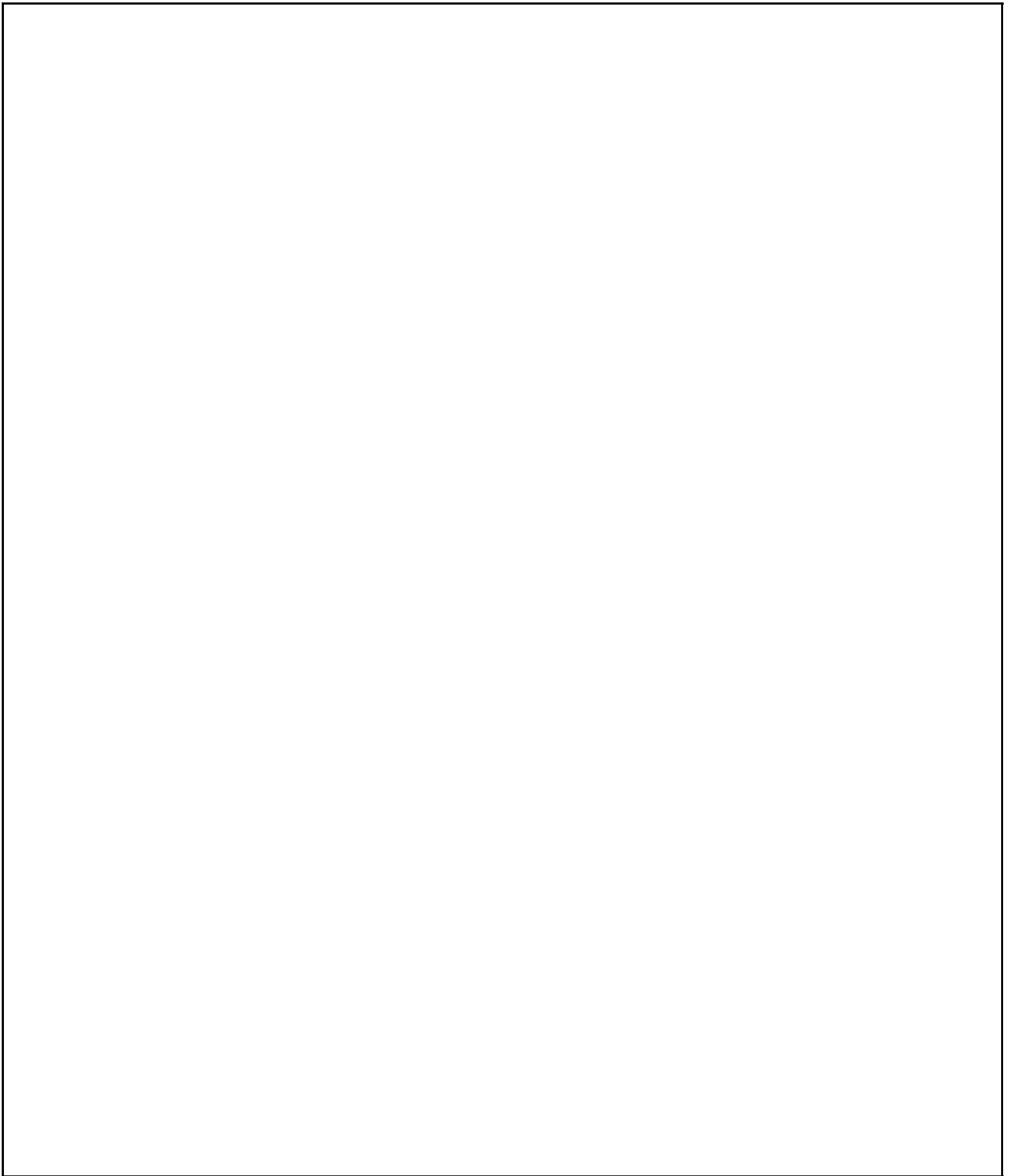
### **Organizational Performance Metrics**

Organizational Performance Additional Narrative

N/A

School Observations

**\*OPTIONAL\*** To be populated by the school and provided to CSI for review and possible inclusion prior to the distribution of the final CARS Report.





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