

Charters Continue to Dominate Rankings of ‘Best Public Schools in Colorado’

DENVER – Oct. 7, 2025 – The top school and four of the top 10 [“Best Public High Schools in Colorado”](#) are charter schools, according to the latest results from the education data clearinghouse Niche. The results showed that [Peak to Peak Charter School](#) in Lafayette is the No. 1 public high school in the state, while [Stargate Charter School](#) (#3) in Thornton, [The Vanguard School](#) (#8) in Colorado Springs, and [DSST: Cedar High School](#) (#10) in Denver also ranked in the top 10.

Niche’s 2026 Best Public High Schools ranking is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, teacher quality, and high school ratings.

Niche’s rankings follow the 2025 results from [U.S. News & World Report](#) that found that six of the 10 “Best High Schools” in Colorado are public charter schools. The charter schools it [ranked as among the 10 best public schools in Colorado](#) were:

- Liberty Common Charter School in Fort Collins (#2)
- The Vanguard School in Colorado Springs (#3)
- Stargate Charter School in Thornton (#4)
- Peak to Peak Charter School in Lafayette (#5)
- Prospect Ridge Academy in Broomfield (#9)
- DSST Cedar High School in Denver (#10)

“These rankings continue to confirm that charter schools are delivering high-quality learning and preparing students to succeed,” said Colorado League of Charter Schools VP of Communications Peter Mason. “Public charter schools only represent about 14% of all the public schools in Colorado, and yet charter schools continue to represent 40% to 60% of those recognized as the best public schools in our state. This is a testament to the outstanding work our charter educators and charter administrators are doing.”

Charter schools are public schools that operate with greater flexibility in their curriculum, staffing, and governance, enabling them to adapt more quickly to student needs. Their proven ability to create academic achievement regardless of students’ backgrounds or home addresses has been a driving force behind their growing popularity. A [recent report](#) by the Keystone Policy Center (January 2025) indicates that charters perform higher than non-charter public schools in English Language, Math, CMAS, and SPF Performance in High-Needs Areas and High-Needs Areas with students from low-income households.

About the Colorado League of Charter Schools

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is a nonprofit, membership-based organization that represents the interests of the state’s 261 charter schools and the families of over 136,000 students who attend them. Our mission is to improve student achievement by supporting Colorado’s charter schools, positively reshaping the public-school landscape, and advancing opportunities for innovation and expanded choice. We want all Colorado students to have access to high-quality, publicly funded school options. More information is available at www.coloradoleague.org.