Colorado’s Public Charter Schools and COVID

Joint Education Committee Hearing
September 23, 2020
Colorado League of Charter Schools

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
Colorado’s Charter School Landscape

Quality

• 261 schools across 70 different cities and towns

Choice

• 128,000 students (14%)

Equity

• 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 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%
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%
Most Proud of

- 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%