The Charter School Institute (CSI) is committed to fostering high-quality charter school options, with a particular focus on service to and performance of underserved populations. **We take an active approach to evaluating and improving upon service to all students.**

**Prioritizing Access & Equity**

CSI’s focus on access and equity is evident by initiatives undertaken in recent years.

- **2015**: CSI Board Prioritizes Service to At-Risk Students
- **2016**: Commissioning of Special Education Report
- **2017**: Development of Screener & Tiered Supports
- **2018**: Greater Capacity Building of Special Education Staff
- **2019**: Expansion of Special Education Financial Resources
- **2020**: Focus on Access & Equity for ELLs

**Developing the Student Screener Tool**

CSI and the National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools developed the Student Services Screener to measure the quality of school access, instructional support, and outcomes for special populations by collecting data on the following indicators:

- Is the school **enrolling** special populations at rates proportional to nearby schools/districts?
- Are special populations **remaining enrolled** at rates proportional to their peers?
- Are special populations **progressing** academically from year to year on the state standards?
- Are special populations **completing** high school at rates proportional to their peers?
- Is the school **disciplining** special populations at rates proportional to their peers?
Process

Student data for special populations — including students with disabilities, students with 504 plans, English Learners, and Gifted & Talented students — is analyzed using five different indicators of equity & access.

The data analysis establishes an intervention tier for each special population.

An overall support tier is assigned based on the number of special populations that require interventions.

CSI staff then offers tiered, individualized supports based on each school’s Screener results.

Outcomes

CSI’s service to minority students, English Learners, students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, and students who qualify for 504 plans remains consistent and reflective of the state average. Service to students who qualify for special education continues to trend upward.

Since prioritizing access and equity, CSI has seen early indicators of success:

- 41% increase in enrollment of PK-12 students with disabilities
- 48% increase in enrollment of PK-12 students with a 504 plan
- Percent of special populations meeting stability rate standards increased from 57% to 75%
- Percent of special populations meeting completion rate standards increased from 48% to 54%