

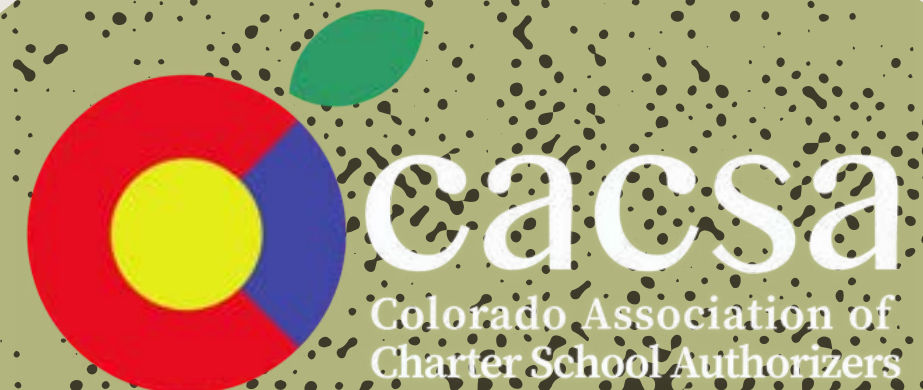
Authorizing in Colorado & Lessons Learned

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COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

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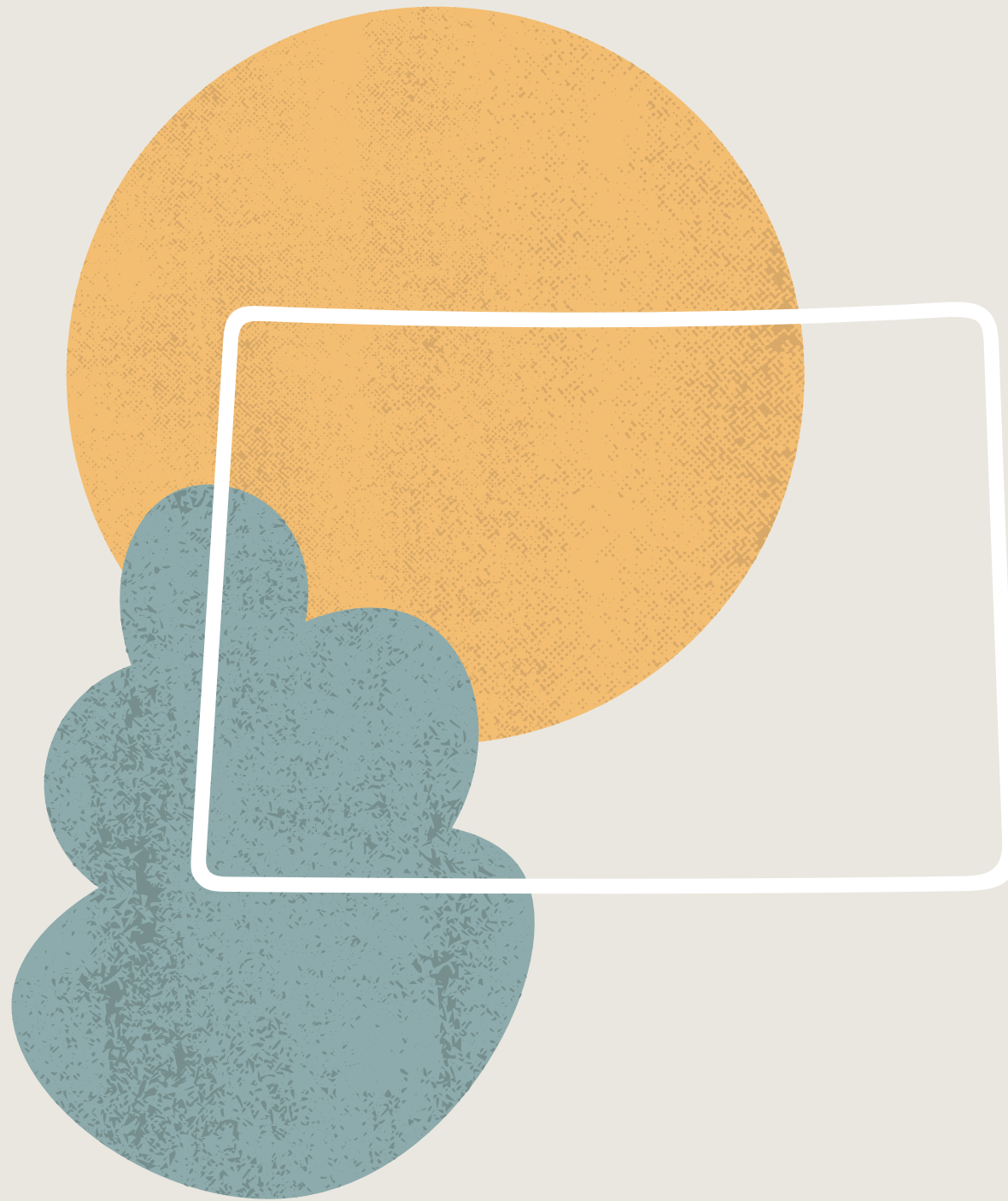


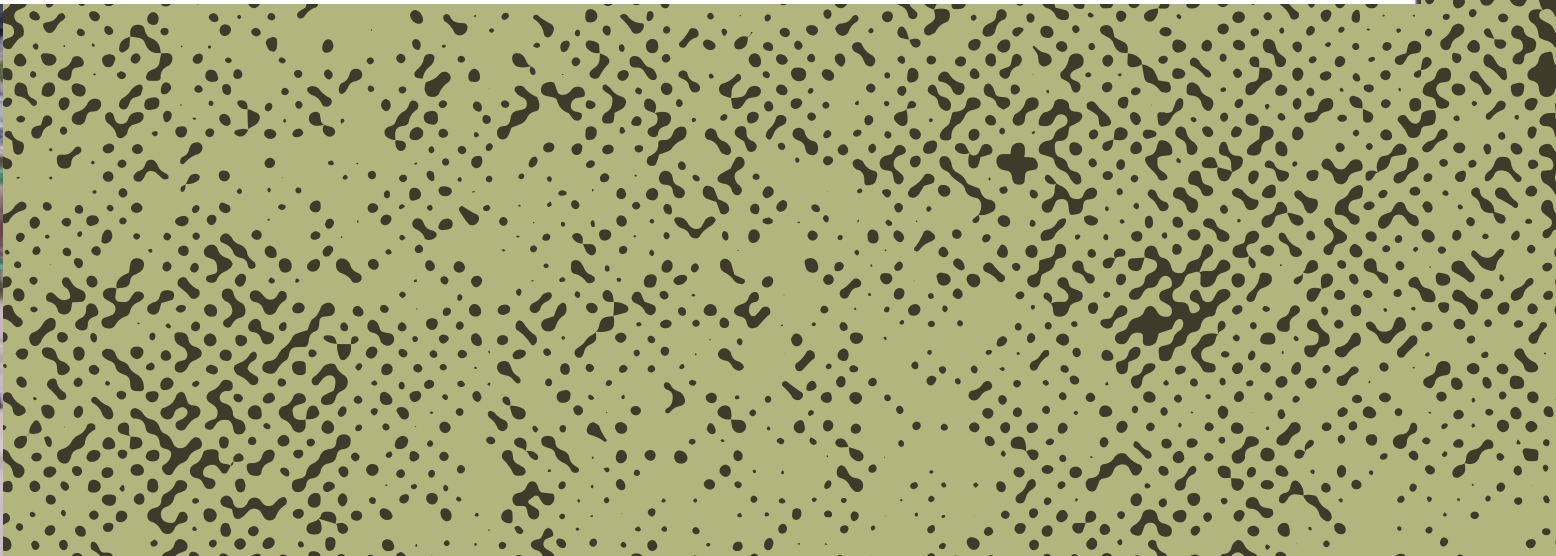
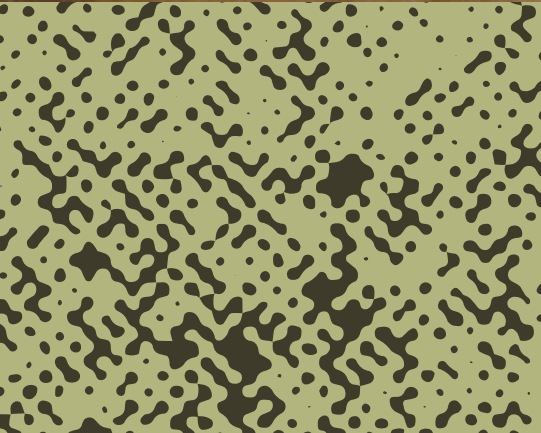
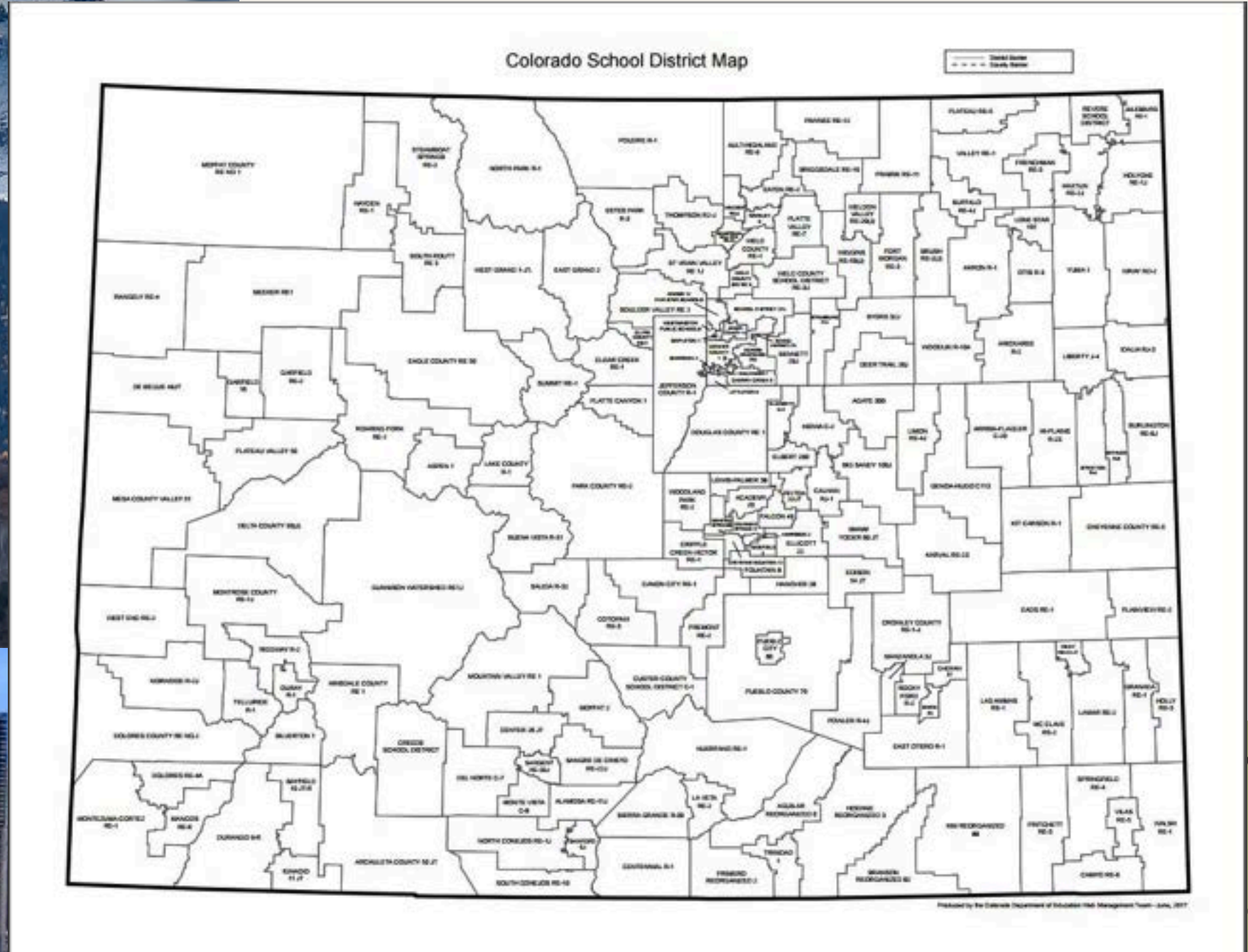
intro & the why



■ QUICK FACTS ABOUT COLORADO'S CHARTER SCHOOL LANDSCAPE

- The first charter school in Colorado opened in 1993.
- Over 260 charter schools across the state that serve more than 130,000 students.
- Charter schools enroll roughly 15% of the total public school population in Colorado.
- Charter schools in Colorado can be authorized by either local school districts or the Colorado Charter School Institute, a state-level authorizer.
- The majority of charter schools are authorized by local districts.
- Governed by the Colorado Charter Schools Act.





STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Approximately 40% of K-12 students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
- About 16% of students are identified as English language learners.
- Roughly 10% of students receive special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Charter school students in Colorado are **more diverse** on average than our traditional public-school peers.

CO Charter Schools

51% students of color

49% white

CO Traditional Public Schools

45% students of color

55% white

51% of CO charter school students are students of color, compared to 45% of CO traditional public school students.

And they have **more English Language Learners (ELLs)**.

CO Charter Schools

21% ELL

79% non-ELL

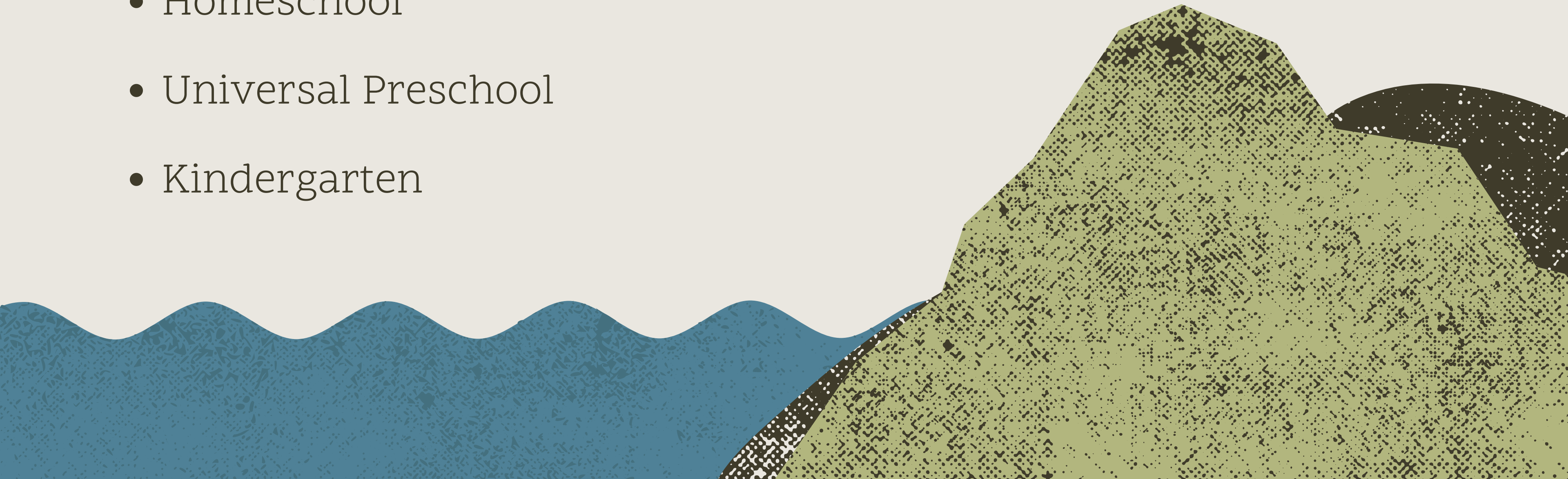
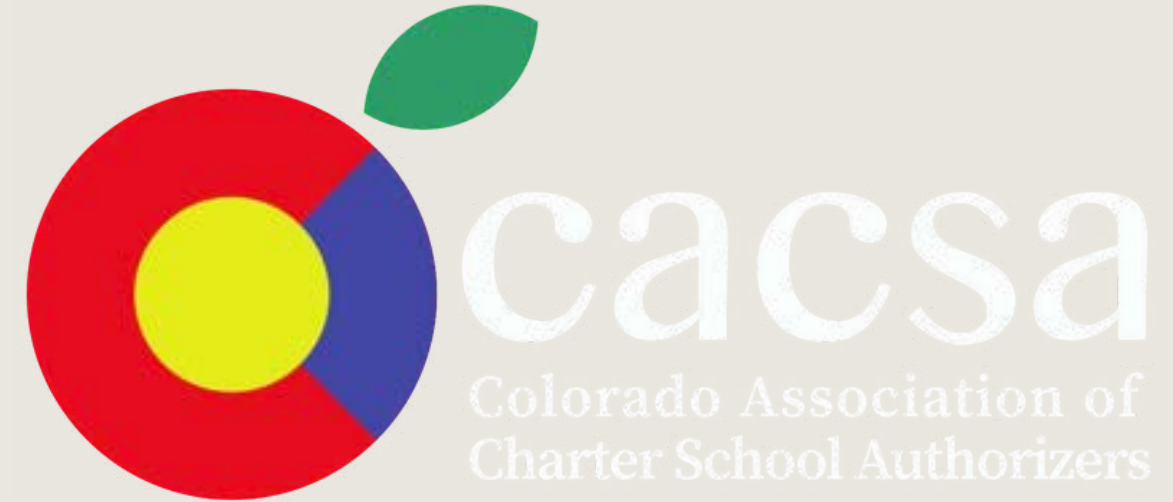
CO Traditional Public Schools

16% ELL

84% non-ELL

21% of CO charter school students are ELLs, compared to 16% of CO traditional public school students.

- Innovation Schools
- Outdoor Education
- 4 Day School Weeks
- Homeschool
- Universal Preschool
- Kindergarten



exclusive chartering authority

choice processes

waivers

declining
enrollment

authorizing
structures

facilities



colorado



Increased housing costs



Decreased birth rates



Increased choice options



Fewer people relocating

Where are all the kids?



School Closures Associated with Academic Measures

Use of academic performance metrics to make school closure decisions



School Closures Based on Enrollment Alone

Schools are closed if lowest enrolled or under a specific enrollment "threshold"



Small School Subsidizing

Subsidizing schools operating under capacity and can lead to formulaic school closure decisions



Multi-Factor Analysis Approach

School closure decisions are based on a combination of factors (enrollment, cost, community input, equity)



cacsa

Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers



Our Vision



The vision of CACSA is that all charter school authorizers will have the tools needed to implement best practices to ensure the charter schools they oversee are of high-quality; effectively serve all students; operate with appropriate autonomy, governance and oversight; and are accountable for academic results, finances, and operations.

Our Mission



This mission of the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) is to promote and support best practices in charter school authorizing and to help all Colorado charter school authorizers develop, adopt, and implement practices that improve results for all students.



Priority Topics

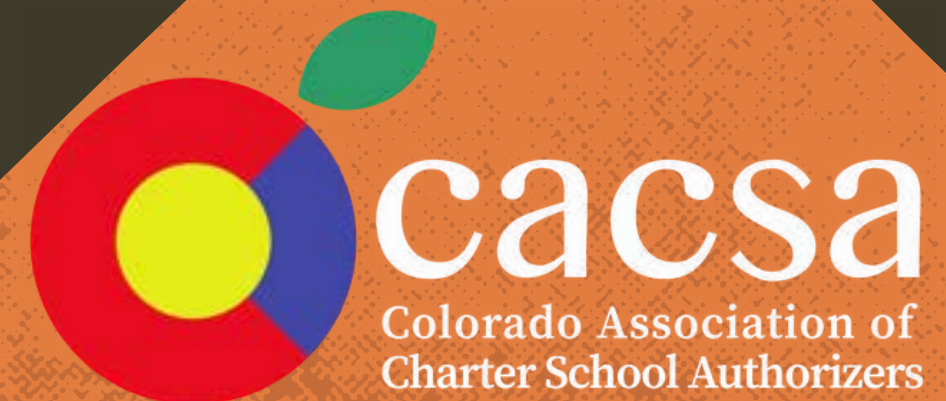
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

ANNUAL PROGRESS MONITORING

SITE VISITS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

YEAR ONE & YEAR ZERO



Priority Tools

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT INDICATORS/FRAMWORK

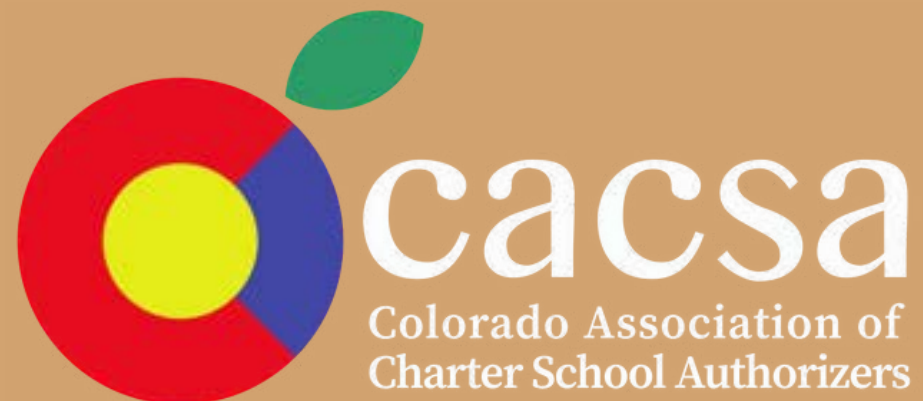
ANNUAL REVIEW TEMPLATE - METRICS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

SITE VISIT RUBRIC - REVISION

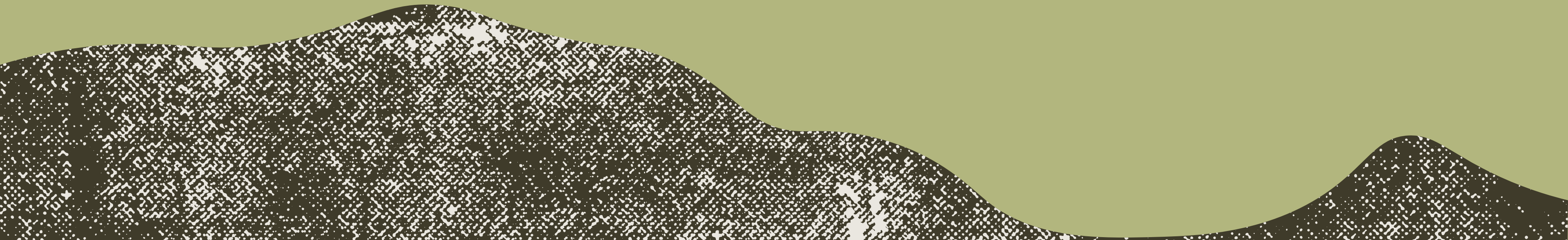
GUIDANCE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MOU

YEAR ONE/YEAR ZERO GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

MODEL CONTRACT - REVISION (SPECIAL EDUCATION)



AUTHORIZING IS BETTER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

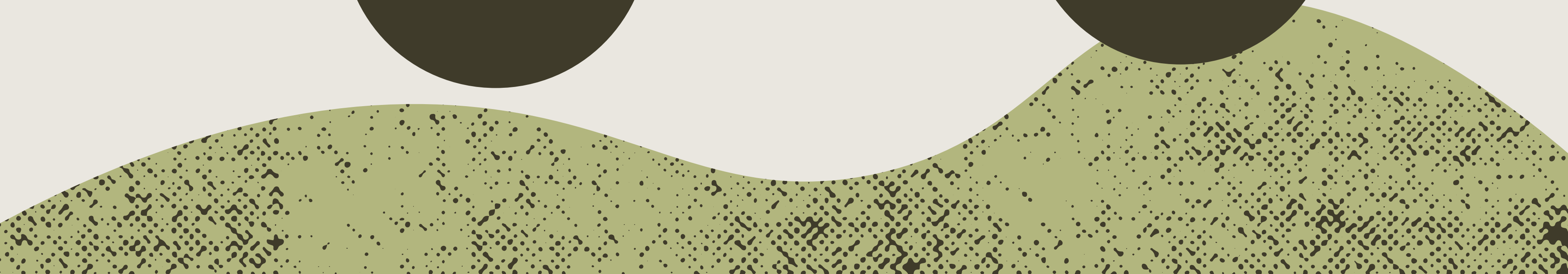
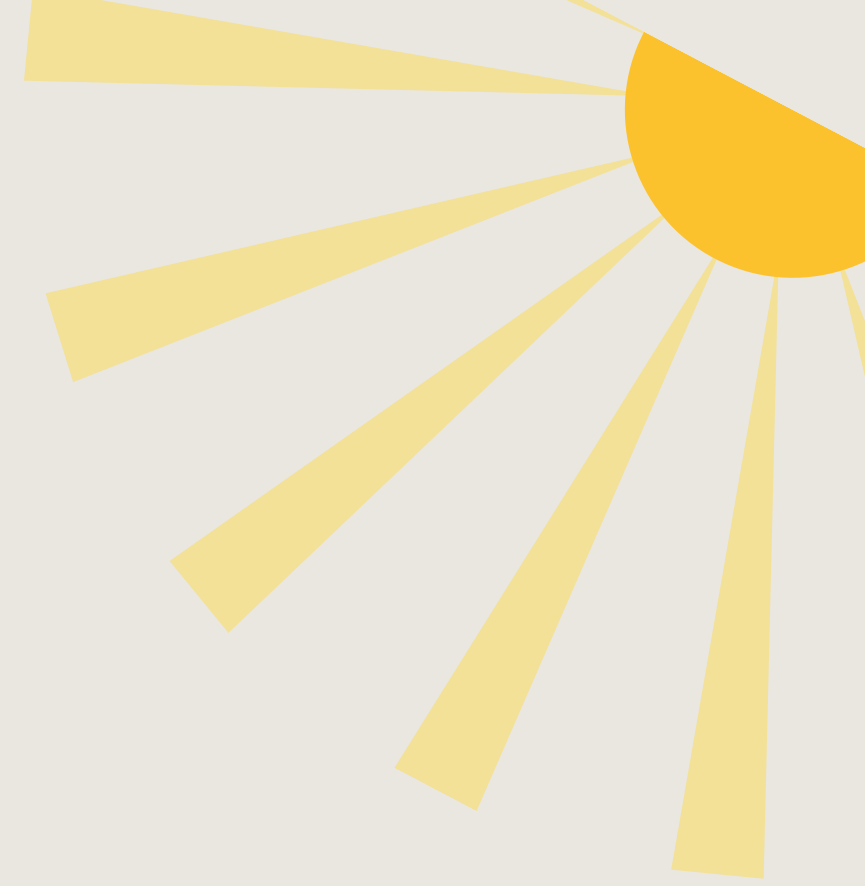


**BEST
PRACTICES
EXCHANGE**

**PEER
REVIEWS**

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**RESEARCH
INITIATIVES**





cacsa

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coauthorizers.org