

What is a Charter School?

Charter schools are tuition-free, public schools that have the flexibility to be more innovative and are held accountable for student achievement. Peak to Peak is one of five charter schools authorized by the Boulder Valley School District. Through a contract (or “charter” contract) with the school district, Peak to Peak operates as a semi-autonomous school of choice receiving the same funding as other traditional public schools. Peak to Peak manifests autonomy through our mission and vision, custom K-12 curriculum, unique hiring and employment practices, and independent budget. The school works closely with the district to ensure alignment with state and federal laws and regulations, and has the freedom and flexibility to operate a unique program.

- Charter schools are public schools.
- Charter schools do not charge tuition.
- Charter schools use non-discriminatory lottery enrollment practices.
- There are no test-in requirements to attend charter schools.
- Charter school students take state assessments.
- There are over 261 charter schools in Colorado serving over 125,000 students.
- Charter school enrollment in Colorado is 13.9% of total public school enrollment.

Custom K-12 Curriculum: *Peak to Peak offers a liberal arts, college preparatory curriculum that gives students a foundation for a lifetime of learning and discovery. The elementary, middle, and high school programs have been carefully crafted as a unified, coherent, and challenging curriculum, which progressively builds each student’s foundation of knowledge and mastery of skills. The curriculum is designed to meet or exceed the entrance requirements of top colleges and universities.*

Unique Hiring and Employment Practices: *Peak to Peak has created independent hiring and employment practices that are separate from the school district. In this way, the school has developed practices to identify and hire unique candidates aligned to the mission and purpose of the school. By welcoming teachers from both traditional and non-traditional pathways, the educational program offers a variety of perspectives and experiences for students.*

Independent Budget: *Through the charter contract with the school district, Peak to Peak operates with an independent budget. In addition to the professional staff in the school’s business office, the financial practices and budget are overseen by Peak to Peak’s governing board and finance committee. In this way, the school can more effectively prioritize resource allocation toward the short and long term goals of the unique program.*

[Click here](#) to visit the Colorado League of Charter Schools website.

[Click here](#) to visit the Colorado State Department of Education – Schools of Choice website.