

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** section 18 to article IX as follows:

Section 18. RIGHT TO SCHOOL CHOICE

(1) PURPOSE AND FINDINGS. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FIND AND DECLARE THAT ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A QUALITY EDUCATION; THAT PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DIRECT THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN; AND THAT SCHOOL CHOICE INCLUDES NEIGHBORHOOD, CHARTER, PRIVATE, AND HOME SCHOOLS, OPEN ENROLLMENT OPTIONS, AND FUTURE INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION.

(2) CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL. EVERY K-12 CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO SCHOOL CHOICE. TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT TO SCHOOL CHOICE AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL QUALITY OPTIONS, A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL MAY APPLY DIRECTLY TO A STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER FOR APPROVAL.