



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Schools of Choice Unit  
201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Katri Rittenhouse  
Southwest Open School  
401 N Dolores Road  
Cortez, CO 81321

October 13, 2025

Dear Katri Rittenhouse:

This letter is to notify you that on October 08, 2025, the State Board of Education approved the waivers from state statute and rule that the Montezuma Cortez School District RE-1 submitted on your behalf. These waivers will be valid through the term of your current contract, which expires on June 30, 2027 with a possible one year extension.

Please note that charter schools must always meet the provisions in the Charter Schools Act as well as any other applicable state and federal laws. In addition, the waivers are subject to review by the Colorado Department of Education at any time.

Also as a reminder, with passage of HB 17-1375, charter schools are required to update the posting of their waivers within thirty days of the State Board approval. Please check your financial transparency page to make sure that you have the most up to date links posted. Of the two separate links on this page, one will be the non-automatic waivers with the corresponding rationale and replacement plans and other should be the standardized description and rationale for automatic waivers with any automatic waivers that you have invoked in your charter contract.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Jaekel  
Assistant Commissioner of School Quality and Support

cc: Tom Burris, Montezuma Cortez School District RE-1

