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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



June 23, 2016

Welcome to another edition of the Friday Wire.

Let us know if your school is in the news! Please send any articles or announcements to [Kerri Barclay](#), Communications Associate at the League.

Articles and announcements are due by noon on Thursday of each week.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Free Items**

Aurora Academy Charter School is giving away laminate mobile carts used for computers (size includes 5' x 30" x 30" ht) and a sturdy science lab desk/work table approximate size is 4' x 55". Please contact Steve Snyder at [ssnyder@aacademy.org](mailto:ssnyder@aacademy.org) to learn more.

**Textbooks For Sale & Free Scooters**

Global Village Academy Aurora has Singapore Math Common Core Edition (nearly new) student textbooks for sale. Available are 3rd, 4th & 5th grade A & B textbooks and teacher's guides. The school also has 40 plastic PE floor scooters free to anyone interested in picking them up. Holders for the scooters are included. Please contact Barbara Ridenour at [bridenour@gvaschools.org](mailto:bridenour@gvaschools.org) to learn more.

**Resources For Sale**

North Star Academy in Parker has a number of student textbooks and teacher manuals for sale. Some of them include: Holt Science and Technology Integrated Science resources (middle school) and Shurley English books for grades 6-8. Please contact Mary Edwards at [medwards@nstaracademy.org](mailto:medwards@nstaracademy.org) or 720-851-7827, ext. 202.

**Items For Sale**

Swallows Charter Academy in Pueblo has the following items for sale: Copy machines in great condition - Bizhub 600, Xerox 4260, Xerox 5755 and two indoor basketball standards. Please contact Kathryn Meyer at 719-240-4163 or [kmeyer@district70.org](mailto:kmeyer@district70.org) for more information.

**Printer for Sale**

Frontier Academy in Greeley is selling a slightly used printer for \$250 for local pick up. It has the extra paper drawer (500 sheet tray). The installed toner cartridge percentages are approximately as follows: Cyan: 33%, Yellow: 40%, Magenta: 55%. The drum, fuser, and laser units are at 90% or more - all with plenty of life left. Please contact Jeff Lemons at [lemonsj@frontieracademy.net](mailto:lemonsj@frontieracademy.net).

## News Articles

### Denver-area districts approve new charter schools

*Colorado Watchdog - June 24, 2016*

Two Denver-area school districts have added three charter schools to their rosters in the past week, and one of those districts is considering allowing a charter to take over another struggling school.

### Upstarts clash with establishment candidates in State Board of Education primaries

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 23, 2016*

Two upstart candidates critical of Colorado's embrace of the Common Core State Standards and the multi-state testing consortium PARCC are challenging their respective party's establishment candidates in Colorado's primary election for seats on the State Board of Education.

### Pueblo County hopes to set aside \$750,000 for high school senior scholarships

*The Denver Post - June 23, 2016*

Pueblo County has set aside around \$750,000 in college scholarships for high school seniors, and all of that funding came from marijuana excise taxes.

### Can either of these candidates help swing the State Board of Education to the Democrats?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 23, 2016*

Of the Colorado State Board of Education races this fall, the fight for the 6th Congressional District will likely draw the most attention. The district spans a diverse mix of suburban areas to the south, east and north of Denver - from Highlands Ranch to Aurora, Northglenn and Thornton - making it more a swing district and not under the thumb of any party.

### Three new charter schools approved by Aurora Public Schools board

*Aurora Sentinel - June 22, 2016*

The Aurora Public Schools Board of Education on Tuesday, June 21, narrowly approved three new charter schools to enter the district in the coming years.

### Aurora school board approves charter school being eyed as replacement for struggling elementary

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 22, 2016*

A divided Aurora school board Tuesday narrowly approved the application of a Denver-based charter school seeking to replace a struggling elementary school in northwest Aurora.

### Englewood to open charter school in 2017

*The Villager - June 22, 2016*

Englewood has got itself a charter school. After nearly three years of rejected applications, appeals and transmutations, the application for a semi-autonomous public school in the city has been approved-this time unanimously by the Charter School Institute, Colorado's only non-district authorizer of such schools-after the applicants were repeatedly rejected by the Englewood Schools Board of Education.

### Transgender students struggle with mental health issues, survey shows

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 21, 2016*

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in Colorado are more likely to plan or attempt suicide than their peers, according to results of a biennial health survey released

this week.

Defiance, disruption marks raucous Douglas County school board meeting

*The Denver Post - June 21, 2016*

More than 100 parents, students and community members turned out Tuesday for a raucous school board meeting in Douglas County, defiantly continuing the calls of the past few months for two board members to step down.

Principal tasked with improving - and closing - Aurora elementary school: I have to give teachers hope

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 21, 2016*

While Aurora Superintendent Rico Munn was making headlines for a proposal to turn a struggling elementary school over to a charter school - a first for the district - he also quietly appointed two of the district's strongest elementary school leaders to help improve learning while the district winds down its own program at Fletcher Community School.

Marijuana use remains flat among Colorado teens, survey finds

*The Denver Post - June 20, 2016*

One out of every five Colorado teens say they have used marijuana in the last month, but that rate has not increased since pot was legalized in the state and is in line with the national average, according to a new report from the state Health Department.

Mike Miles appointed to Colorado League of Charter Schools' board

*The Gazette - June 20, 2016*

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has appointed Mike Miles to serve on its board of directors.

What Colorado's numbers tell us - and don't tell us - about who needs remedial work in college

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 20, 2016*

It's understandable if you missed the Colorado Department of Higher Education's latest report on a key measure of how well public high school graduates are prepared for college.

Despite boost, Colorado school funding is still below pre-recession levels

*The Colorado Independent - June 20, 2016*

If there's any topic that is almost as important to lawmakers as the budget, it's education. So what will be different for Colorado's rural schools in the coming academic year?

Monument charter school, district have tentative agreement on contract

*The Gazette - June 17, 2016*

After months of what some Lewis-Palmer School District 38 board members called "painful" negotiations, a 10-year contract between the district and its sole charter school, Monument Academy, is one step closer to being ratified.

Denver school board approves \$628 million bond and mill package, new charter schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 16, 2016*

Denver voters will be asked in November to raise an additional \$628 million in taxes to pay for school construction and the expansion of educational programs after the Denver school board Thursday voted unanimously in favor of a bond and mill levy override.

## Opinion/Commentary Articles & Press Releases

**Please Note: The following is a sampling of opinion articles about charter schools that appeared in the media over the past week. The opinions in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Colorado League of Charter Schools.**

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Integrity matters - Recall Eric Nelson if he won't resign after being called out on career lies

Aurora Sentinel - June 23, 2016

Eric Nelson is having his lifetime "wow" moment at the expense of Aurora and pretty much all of Colorado.

Mike Miles appointed to Colorado League of Charter Schools' board

Colorado League of Charter Schools - June 21, 2016

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has appointed Mike Miles to serve on its board of directors. Miles is a leader in education reform and the former superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District and the Harrison School District in Colorado Springs. Miles returned to Colorado Springs last summer and started an educational consulting company, Third Future. He was recently tapped to lead the transformation of the Pikes Peak Prep charter school in Colorado Springs and is also starting a charter public school in Aurora, the Academy of Advanced Learning, which is set to open in the fall of 2017.

Tough path ahead

Vail Daily - June 17, 2016

Last week, a policy fight related to how struggling students should be counted and used in rating schools broke out at the state level, pitting education professionals on one side against education reform and civil rights groups on the other.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

Below are some other great education reform news, blog and discussion sites that may be of interest:

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

[Charter Pulse](#)

[Charter School Solutions Blog](#)

[Charter Schools In Perspective](#)

[Chartering Quality Blog \(National Association for Charter School Authorizers\)](#)

[Democrats for Education Reform Blog](#)

[EdisWatching.org](#) (Independence Institute)

[National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - The Charter Blog](#)

[National Charter School Resource Center](#)

Community Calendar

2016 Summer School Safety Conference

Hosted by the Colorado Association of D.A.R.E. Officers

Dates: Wednesday, July 6 - Friday, July 8

Cost: Pricing varies, refer to website

Location: The Sheraton Steamboat Resort & Villas, 2200 Village Inn Court, Steamboat

Description: This training conference will have classes on Effects of Marijuana in the Adolescent Mind, Youth Mental Health First Aid (Certification Class), Drug Impaired Education for Educators and Professionals, F.B.I. B.A.U. Active Shooter: Pre-Attack Behavior Indicators and more.

Registration: [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Onboarding Your Charter School

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, July 18

Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: Special new school pricing! \$75 per person. Groups of 3 or more use promo code GROUP20 at checkout for \$20 off each ticket.

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

Description: *Spring 2016 Cohort of Approved Charter Schools Scheduled to Open in 2017 - Sign Up Now for Onboarding Your Charter School*

Now that your charter application has been approved, what's next? Attend this training as you navigate through the complexities of the startup phase; presenting a clear path forward as your school moves from theory to reality. With a combination of sessions AND personalized team meetings with various League staff across all of the critical areas of year-0, Onboarding is designed to help you effectively identify next steps and understand how to implement them across critical areas of school start-up. This training is recommended for planning teams (anyone involved in the startup phase of your school) and special group discounts apply for schools with three or more attendees. You may be eligible for planning grants to cover the cost of this training (check with Lori Ventimiglia).

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, July 11.

Vendor Workshop: How to WIN Charter School Business

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, July 21

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Ave., Denver

Cost: League Marketplace Member: \$75; Non-member: \$99

Description: Suppliers and Service Providers to the charter school sector are important; without innovative products and services, charter schools would find it difficult to stretch their dollars and still achieve outstanding academic results with their students. Learn how to successfully connect and serve the vibrant charter school market in Colorado by attending this one-day educational event.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, July 19.

Leading Effective Professional Development Workshop

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, July 27

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Ave., Denver

Cost: League Member: \$175 and \$100 for additional attendee; Non-member: \$250 and \$100 for additional attendee

Description: This workshop will apply research-based strategies for teaching adult learners to support teachers in learning how to structure, plan, and lead effective professional development workshops. This session will build instructional leaders' capacity to lead school-based PD sessions in their areas of expertise.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, July 25.

An Overview for Creating an English Language Development Standards Crosswalk for Curriculum Mapping, Lesson Planning, and Implementation of Best Language Strategies

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, July 28

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E Yale Ave, Denver

Cost: League Members: \$175 and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-members: \$225 and \$100 for each additional attendee

Description: With the growing population of English Language Learners in your schools, it is crucial for the schools to be prepared with the best tools and resources that can be utilized to help with implementation of quality instruction. One of the of the most important tools needed is a Standards Crosswalk of the WIDA standards integrated with the Common Core Standards, Essential Questions, English Language Development Best Practices, and Vocabulary. Teachers need a tool that is user friendly, can be aligned to any curriculum for mapping, and can offer the benefit of alignment for assessment. This training will provide an overview of the process needed to create the Standards Crosswalk for pacing/mapping out the school year, aligning curriculum, and streamlining the lesson planning process for your teachers. This training will begin to build a foundation for clearer understanding of ALL of the standards, lesson planning and integration of language teaching strategies to best meet the needs of English Language Learners.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, July 13.
Event contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

Active Shooter Response Training Instructor Course

Hosted by Loveland Classical Schools

Date: Monday, August 1 - Tuesday, August 2

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Location: Loveland Classical Schools, 3835 SW 14th Street, Loveland

Cost: \$595 per person

Description: ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) is a set of proactive, options-based strategies, that increase your chances of survival during a violent intruder or Active Shooter event. For 14 years, the ALICE Training Institute has provided violent intruder response training to individuals and organizations across the nation. This 2-Day Instructor training course is designed to teach law enforcement as well as school, church, hospital and workplace administrators and employees skills and strategies that bridge the gap between the time a violent event begins and law enforcement arrives.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

Applying GASB 34: Books to Financial Statements

Hosted by Colorado ASBO

Date: Friday, August 5

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: Denver Marriott Westminster, 7000 Church Ranch Blvd., Westminster

Description: Governments, including school districts, historically keep their financial records (the books) on a cash basis. End of year happens. Now we have to get the information from our books into our financial statements. One of the most sweeping changes to our financial statements was the issuance of GASB 34. Attend this class to learn how to go from "cash basis" to "accrual basis" accounting and how the different statements are presented.

Lodging: Discounted rates of \$149 for lodging are available at the Denver Marriott Westminster. Reference code: ColoradoASBO.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 19

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175, additional attendees \$100; Non-Members: \$250, additional attendees \$100

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

Description: School leaders (principals, executive directors, etc.) are ultimately responsible for the operation and compliance of special education programming in their schools. Therefore, it is essential that school leaders, in addition to special education teachers/coordinators, understand the IDEA requirements for special education services and make sure their school is in compliance with these requirements. This workshop is designed to equip school leaders with 8 critical strategies for managing Special Education compliance.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, August 17.

Gifted Education 101

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning, 2510 N. Chestnut St., Colorado Springs

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: Founding principal and Academy Director Nikki Myers and founding teacher and gifted education specialist Teresa Brown will guide participants in the following

objectives:

- Awareness of the definition of giftedness and requirements in the state of Colorado for each charter and traditional public school.
- Awareness of the characteristics of giftedness as they present in the classroom and the challenges that teachers face in supporting those needs.
- Strategies and techniques for addressing gifted educational needs that can be met within a variety of school models.
- Sample Advanced Learning Plan formats that meet requirements for Colorado.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 14.
 Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 23

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E Yale Ave, Denver

Cost: League Member: \$175 for first attendee and \$100 for each additional attendee;
 Non-member: \$250 for first attendee and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processing of reading. Participants will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle:

- Teachers collect various screeners that assess the different processing of reading.
- Teachers plot and analyze screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Teachers triangulate data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Teachers prioritize instruction through a problem solving process.
- Teachers implement prioritized instruction and progress monitor goals/objectives.
- Teachers review progress monitoring and adjust groupings and instructional plans.

In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of reading processes and building a stronger skill set in data-driven instruction, participants will learn instructional best practices and evidence-based programming options for specialized instruction in reading and writing.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 21.
 Event contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

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**Take Action! Join the Colorado Charter Advocacy Network (Colorado CAN)**

Join the Colorado Charter Advocacy Network (Colorado CAN) to receive news, legislative updates and ALERTS about political issues impacting charter schools. Easily send emails to state legislators weighing in on important political matters impacting Colorado's charter schools! Visit [www.coloradoleague.org](http://www.coloradoleague.org) and click "Take Action!"

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Let us know if your school is in the news! Please send any articles, comments, or questions to [Kerri Barclay](#).

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**Visit us online at:** <http://www.coloradoleague.org>

**Quick Links...**

- [Conference and Events Calendar](#)

- [Grants](#)

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