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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



July 1, 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**

**Charter School Discipline Toolkit: A Toolkit for Charter School Leaders**

The National Charter School Resource Center presents a toolkit on ways that school leaders can rethink student discipline and school climate. The five enabling factors in the planning and implementation of discipline reform include: 1) defining the scope of change, 2) creating a vision, 3) driving commitment to change, 4) revising policies and procedures, and 5) sustaining change. Each section of the toolkit also includes links to specific resources to assist schools in implementation. [Click here to access the toolkit.](#)

**Free Mobile Carts and Science Lab Desk/Work Table**

Aurora Academy Charter School is giving away laminate mobile carts ([photo](#)) used for computers (size includes 5' x 30"x 30" ht) and a sturdy science lab desk/work table ([photo](#)) approximate size is 4' x 55". Please contact Steve Snyder at [ssnyder@academy.org](mailto:ssnyder@academy.org) or 720-341-1284 to learn more.

**Free Singapore Math Textbooks**

Global Village Academy Aurora has Singapore Math Common Core Edition (nearly new) student textbooks to give away to another charter school (must pick them up at Global Village Academy Aurora). Available are 3rd, 4th & 5th grade A & B textbooks and teacher's guides. Please contact Barbara Ridenour at [bridenour@gvaschools.org](mailto:bridenour@gvaschools.org) to learn more.

**Copy Machines and Indoor Basketball Standards 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).

### **Student Textbooks and Teacher Manuals 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.

## **News Articles**

[We asked five Colorado teachers how they use technology in the classroom. This is what they said](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 30, 2016*

Digital storytelling is one concept from the conference Linda Horne would like to emulate. She teaches English language learners at Challenge to Excellence, a charter school in Parker that serves students from kindergarten to eighth grade. Horne already introduces her youngest kids to some digital work.

[Education Reformers Reflect at 25](#)

*The American Prospect - June 29, 2016*

It's been a quarter-century since the nation's first charter school opened in Minnesota, prompting many self-proclaimed reformers to step back and reflect on their movement's progress.

[\\$17.5M charter school for grades 6 to 12 to break ground in Banning Lewis Ranch](#)

*The Gazette - June 29, 2016*

Construction will start next week on a \$17.5 million charter school, the Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy, in a large master-planned community in northeast Colorado Springs. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held 11 a.m. Thursday at the site, 9433 Vista Del Pico Blvd.

[Six charts that explain who is getting vaccinated in Colorado -- and who's not](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 29, 2016*

Today we published a database of school-by-school immunization rates for Colorado's 30 largest school districts. Chalkbeat staff have combed through the data looking for trends and trouble spots. Here's what we've found so far...

[DSST's Bill Kurtz Inducted into Charter School Hall of Fame](#)

*YourHub.com - June 29, 2016*

On Tuesday, June 28th, Bill Kurtz, CEO of DSST Public Schools (Denver) was inducted into the Charter School Hall of Fame during the 2016 National Charter Schools Conference in Nashville.

[Establishment candidates win State Board of Education primaries with double-digit leads over upstarts](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 28, 2016*

Establishment candidates emerged victorious Tuesday night in two races for the State Board of Education, setting the stage for a November election that could tilt the balance of the board.

[Walton foundation launches \\$250M charter school initiative](#)

*Aurora Sentinel - June 18, 2016*

A foundation run by the heirs of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton has announced a \$250 million initiative to support charter schools in 17 cities across the U.S.

### How Hillary Clinton wants to make computer science courses available to every kid in America

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 28, 2016*

How Hillary Clinton wants to make computer science courses available to every kid in America. Denver's DSST charter school network, in the midst of a significant expansion, gets a shoutout in the Clinton plan as a model of innovation.

### U.S. education chief on changing charter school discipline: 'We did not do it fast enough'

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 28, 2016*

U.S. Education Secretary John King told charter school leaders Tuesday that it was time to think about whether their discipline policies are giving students the help they need. His speech reflected a movement that's been underway for a while: The re-examining of the "no excuses" discipline that has defined the country's highest-profile charter schools.

### Colorado charter school negotiates 'fair' contract with authorizer

*Colorado Watchdog - June 28, 2016*

The school board of Monument Charter Academy has signed a new contract with its authorizer, Lewis Palmer School District 38, ending months of strained negotiations. The charter school had threatened to sue the district because it was receiving no allocation from \$4 million in annual mill levy override funds. Monument Academy wanted what it felt was its fair share of \$600,000 per year for enrolling 15 percent of the district's students.

### The Aurora school district couldn't save this elementary school. Now a charter network gets a chance

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 27, 2016*

A highly regarded Denver-based charter school network this fall will begin taking over an Aurora elementary school that has failed to improve despite several attempts. The school board's unanimous approval Friday of the move is a major win for Aurora Public Schools Superintendent Rico Munn's school improvement agenda and represents a significant shift for a school district once known for not embracing charter schools.

### Justices reject request to rehear union case that tied 4-4

*The Associated Press - June 28, 2016*

The deadlock left in place a nearly four-decade-old practice that lets public-sector unions collect fees from non-members to cover collective bargaining costs.

### Colorado education reformer makes New York Times list of young Democrats worth watching

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 27, 2016*

Arguably Colorado's highest profile education reformer and the architect of the state's landmark (and controversial) teacher effectiveness law, state Sen. Mike Johnston was called out Sunday by the New York Times's Frank Bruni as one of the nation's "14 Young Democrats to Watch."

### State agency gives charter school green light

*Englewood Herald - June 27, 2016*

TriCity Academy's application received unanimous approval by the Colorado Charter School Institute on June 16, which puts wheels in motion for facility to open in Englewood in August 2017. The academy tried unsuccessfully over the last three years to receive a charter from Englewood despite a state board of education ruling in favor of TriCity's efforts. The result was an agreement for the academy to apply for a charter through the Colorado Charter School Institute, which is the state's only non-school district organization authorized to approve a charter school application

### Colorado students face ongoing struggle to express themselves as officials try to maintain order

*The Denver Post - June 26, 2016*

The turmoil in the Douglas County School District of the past few months has laid bare fundamental questions over the extent and limits of free expression in the schoolyard,

from a student's right to organize a protest to the way adults in positions of authority converse with students.

## 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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Advancing school choice by investing in charter-school buildings

New York Daily News - June 29, 2016

Mayor de Blasio danced a neat political two-step as he shifted his position last week on charter schools, saying his opposition to these innovative choices for families has been overblown and misconstrued. Ironically, his position - at least in practice - no longer matters.

National Alliance Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Charter Schools in Nashville with Call to Action to Meet National Demand

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - June 27, 2016

As charter public school leaders from around the country gather to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the movement at the annual National Charter School Conference, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools today announced the ambitious goal of enrolling a total of four million students in charter schools over the next five years - one million more students than the movement currently serves today. In her general session speech, National Alliance president and CEO Nina Rees laid out this goal as the key piece of a new campaign called "Open the Doors."

What Diverse Charter Schools Do Differently

Education Week - June 27, 2016

With the arrival of charter schools in the early 1990s, skeptics predicted they would skim off the best and brightest students from traditional public schools, creating a two-tiered system. As the charter movement spread to include 43 states and the District of Columbia, researchers were surprised to learn that charter schools enrolled students in predominantly urban areas who had not been well served by traditional public schools.

Dougco school board protesters are out of line

Denver Post Editorial Board - June 24, 2016

But the reaction to their mistake, which achieved a new low this week when protesters demanding their resignations disrupted a school board meeting until it was adjourned, is also out of line. Not only is the behavior an insult to the democratic process and free speech, the demand for the women's resignation is overwrought given the context of the incident.

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 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.

Classroom Strategies For Teaching English-Language Learners & Overview for English Language Development Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, October 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

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: With the growing population of English Language Learners within our schools, it is essential that schools be prepared to meet the needs of ELL students. In order to do this, teachers and interventionists will need to understand the basic elements of WIDA standards, the features of an English Language Development Plan (ELDP), and the strategies to support learning. This training will provide an overview for creating an English Language Development Plan as well as how to utilize the WIDA standards and build a foundation for classroom strategies that can be incorporated into teaching English Language learners. The training will focus on strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 30.

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

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