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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
 CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



December 2, 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

### Nominate a Charter Friend

Does your charter school have an exceptional administrator, board member, business manager, teacher or other leader who is deserving of recognition? Does your charter school's authorizer demonstrate a high level of commitment to advocacy and support on behalf of charter schools? Do you know of an elected official or community leader who has demonstrated significant influence in public policy on behalf of charter schools? Nominate these outstanding leaders for a Charter Friend Award! [Click here](#) for more information and to submit a nomination. Deadline: Friday, December 16.

### CHSAA Guidelines for Security, Safety and Crisis Management

[Click here](#) to view Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) manual highlighting guidelines for security, safety and crisis management at high school co-curricular activities.

### Cohort-Based Professional Development

The League is excited to announce new cohort-based professional development offerings. These multi-day learning opportunities will take place throughout the school year. Upcoming PD includes:

- [Implementing Effective Data Teams](#) (starts December 13th)
- [Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student](#)

[Outcomes](#) (starts January 10th)

- [Formative and Summative Assessment Practices](#) (starts January 20th)

Participants will create a quality product that will support an action plan, the charter public school, and student outcomes. Click the links above for more information and to register.

Questions? Contact Nicole Grzybowski, Director of School Quality and Support at 303-989-5356, ext. 107 or [ngrzybowski@coloradoleague.org](mailto:ngrzybowski@coloradoleague.org).

### **School Furniture Available**

Frontier Academy in Greeley is donating 75 desk and chair combinations in good condition. [Click here to view photo](#). Please contact Tom Mothershed at [mothershedt@frontieracademy](mailto:mothershedt@frontieracademy) if interested.

### **Free Office Supplies**

The Donnell-Kay Foundation is donating a number of office supplies to interested schools. The items include: numerous binders (2 boxes plus more), 3 keyboards, numerous easel paper pads, and a printer. Please contact Carmelita Galicia-Munoz at [cgaliciamunoz@dkfoundation.org](mailto:cgaliciamunoz@dkfoundation.org) if interested in these supplies or to arrange pick-up at their Denver office. Carmelita is happy to send photos of the items directly to you.

## **News Articles**

### [How Changing Classroom Design Could Change Learning in Denver](#)

*Colorado Public Radio - December 1, 2016*

Some leaders at Denver Public Schools believe that a physical space, down to the kind of chairs students sit in, can affect their productivity and how easily they learn.

### [In Denver, Charter Schools Lead The Way In Helping Low-Income Students](#)

*Townhall - November 30, 2016*

In July, Townhall attended a school choice conference hosted by the Franklin Center in Denver, Colorado.

### [PSA: Charter Schools Are Public Schools](#)

*Townhall - November 30, 2016*

Yet, that's not to say that charter schools are terrible. In fact, they're public schools. That's one thing that some don't seem to get when you're discussing public schools. At the Franklin Center's school choice conference in Denver in July-that point was made clear by Pam Benigno, Ross Izard, and Erick Valencia of the Education Policy Center.

### [In the black community, a division over charter schools](#)

*PBS NewsHour - November 29, 2016*

The fight over these issues is already building within the African-American community. The NAACP is calling for a moratorium on new charter schools, but some black parents are pushing back against that.

### [Could school vouchers come to Colorado under a Trump administration? It's a long shot.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 29, 2016*

Donald Trump's selection of conservative Michigan billionaire Betsy DeVos to lead the federal education department has spurred plenty of speculation about whether the new administration can make good on a campaign promise to fund a nationwide school voucher program.

Durango School District 9-R's early childhood program sets example for Colorado  
*The Durango Herald - November 29, 2016*

When Libby Culver's phone rings, it's just as likely to be another school district in Colorado calling for advice as it is someone in Durango School District 9-R's early education program.

What Trump's election means for undocumented educators  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 28, 2016*

For three Denver educators, life in Donald Trump's America is a big unknown. They worry the president-elect will erase the protections that allowed them, as undocumented immigrants brought here as children, to step out of the shadows and into the classroom.

Douglas County School District explores possible tax measure  
*Douglas County News-Press - November 28, 2016*

The Douglas County Board of Education will gauge interest in a possible tax measure aimed at generating more money to address capital needs across the district.

What you should know about Betsy DeVos, Trump's education secretary pick -- and what her choice might tell us about his plans  
*Chalkbeat - November 24, 2016*

President-elect Donald Trump has reportedly tapped Michigan philanthropist Betsy DeVos to be his education secretary.

University of Northern Colorado gets \$2.2M grant to fund rural education center  
*The Greeley Tribune - November 24, 2016*

The University of Northern Colorado has earned a grant worth \$2.2 million to address the rural educator shortage in Colorado during the next five years.

Charter alliance creates fund to protect charter schools in the courts  
*Watchdog.org - November 21, 2016*

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is launching a Charter School Legal Action Fund in hopes of aiding select public charter school cases.

Colorado League of Charter Schools president Nora Flood leaving to lead new Walton Family Foundation program  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 18, 2016*

The leader of the Colorado League of Charter Schools is leaving next year to help start a new program of the Walton Family Foundation, the league announced Friday.

Denver school immerses students in Mandarin Chinese  
*9News - November 4, 2016*

It's spoken by nearly a billion people in the world, but for many, it's a real head-scratcher: Mandarin Chinese.

## 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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Choice Without Accountability Puts Children at Risk

RealClearEducation - November 29, 2016

With close to 7,000 public charter schools in 43 states and voucher or tax credit programs in about 30 states -- allowing low-income children to use public dollars to attend private schools -- school choice is thriving. But there are signs of trouble for the bipartisan alliance that has brought public school choice to millions of low-income parents.

Election results reveal disparity in Colorado education funding

The Denver Post - November 29, 2016

What does it cost to educate a student in Colorado? Depends on where you live.

EDITORIAL: Trump's education pick defends liberty

The Gazette - November 27, 2016

President-elect Donald Trump inadvertently threatened religious liberty, then nominated a secretary of education who will defend and expand it.

Editorial: Yes to the bond, and improved communication

Coloradoan - November 25, 2016

Trust. It's hard to build and easy to lose. The quote, attributed to George Bernard Shaw, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place," offers historical perspective and a bit of levity to our all-too-human "failures to communicate."

North Star Academy Honors Veterans During Annual Celebration

North Star Academy - November 22, 2016

Honoring Veterans is an annual tradition for students and staff at North Star Academy (NSA), a K-8 public, tuition-free charter school in Parker. Since the school's inception in 2006, the Veterans Day celebration has brought the community together through song, guest speakers from the armed forces, NSA's student leadership council and a flag folding ceremony.

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 \(Independence Institute\)](#)

[Education Post](#)

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

[National Charter School Resource Center](#)

Community Calendar

PowerSchool: A Day in the Life of a Registrar

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, December 8

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Cost: League Member: \$75 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee;

Non-Member: \$100 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee

Meals: Snacks (lunch will not be provided).

Description: Attend this mid-year refresher and review how your systems are working, items you are struggling with, and share tips and tricks. We will discuss registration duty best practices including enrollment, data management for reporting and others. Time will be allotted for attendees to share out and work through their challenges and questions.

Audience: Registrar, secretary or anyone involved in entering or maintaining student data in PowerSchool.

Trainer: Nyssa Strom, Student Information Coordinator, Victory Preparatory Academy

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, December 2. Event contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

Banning Lewis Ranch Santa Sprint 5k

Hosted by Banning Lewis Ranch benefiting the BLRA Foundation

Date: Saturday, December 10

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Banning Lewis Ranch Academy, 7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs

Cost: Last Minute Shopper Adult 16-100 (Nov 17-Dec 9) \$35

Same Day Shopper Adult 16-100 (Dec 10) \$40

Elf Kids 6-15 \$10

Sled Dog \$10

Description: The Banning Lewis Ranch Santa Sprint 5k will offer runners, walkers, and well-behaved (leashed) dogs a beautiful course that winds through the Banning Lewis Ranch community located on the north east side of Colorado Springs. You will be dazzled with some of the most spectacular views of Pikes Peak along the route. The race will kick off in the open field directly to the south of the Banning Lewis Ranch Academy facility (7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive). The race will benefit the BLRA Foundation with proceeds going towards the opening of Banning Lewis Preparatory in Fall of 2017.

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

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, December 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Friday, January 13 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, March 14 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Location:Cost: League Members: \$350 per person for all three sessions. |

Non-Members: \$450 per person for all three sessions | \$200 for each additional attendee.

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will create a Professional Development product called the "Data Team Action Research Plan". Participants will be asked to gather formative and summative assessment data to bring to each PD session, set goals that drive the data team, analyze student work samples, engage in learning intervention based instructional strategies, and participate in a lesson vs. assessment study.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, December 9.

****Note:** Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one.**

LightSail Lunch & Learn

Hosted by LightSail

Date: Tuesday, December 13

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Location: Virginia Village Library Denver, 1500 S. Dahlia Street, Denver

Cost: Free

Description: Join LightSail for an upcoming Lunch & Learn! LightSail invites Colorado educators to learn how LightSail's digital literacy platform personalizes the reading experiences for students and enhances instruction for educators.

About LightSail: LightSail is the adaptive reading platform that helps students, classrooms, and school districts exceed their literacy goals. Schools use LightSail to support independent reading, small group work, and whole-class instruction. LightSail is one of the fastest growing literacy solutions in K-12 and is one of the only applications to receive a 5-star rating by Common Sense Media two years in a row.

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

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates/Times/Locations:

Tuesday, January 10 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Date TBD (after January 10) | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

Wednesday, March 15 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$500 per person for both PD sessions and On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching; Non-Members: \$600 per person.

Target Audience: Teachers in years 1-3 of teaching, Interventionists who teach larger groups of students, and anyone who is looking to improve their instructional practices in the classroom.

Description: In this series of professional development sessions that includes an on-site observation and instructional coaching session, participants will engage in a variety of effective instructional strategies to practice and then implement in the classroom. Research states that instructional strategies need to be practiced over 20 times in order to become an automatic part of instruction practice. This takes opportunities for practice, feedback and mentorship, planning and development of teaching routines, on-going support, and a risk taking learning environment that supports teachers with a growth mindset.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, January 9.

****Note:** Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one.**

Charter Communicators Network Meeting

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 12

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$25 per person; Non-Members: \$75 per person

Note: Includes coffee and lunch

Description: Charter Communicators Network Meetings take place three times per year. This is a chance for charter school communications staff, or any staff interested in building school communications and marketing efforts, to come together. During these meetings, attendees will network and share best practices, as well as hear from experts in the field.

Topic: Telling Your School's Story

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 10.

Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, January 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, 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: 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 upon the instructional leaders' capacity to lead school-based PD sessions in their areas of expertise.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, January 12.

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

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