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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



July 14, 2017

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**

**Items For Sale**

Aurora Academy has the following items for sale:

- Two 8' folding cafeteria tables with casters. Used for grades K-8, slight repair on seat but table is in good condition. Each table is \$50. Contact Steve Snyder at [ssnyder@aacademy.org](mailto:ssnyder@aacademy.org) for more information.
- Approximately 48 computers with monitors selling for \$75 each. Details include: HP DC 5750 SFF Desktop Dual Core Processor 2G RAM 80G SATA Hard drive DVD ROM WINDOWS 7 Pro key (Windows not installed) DVI and VGA Video 8 USB Ports Keyboard/Mouse 17" Flat Panel Monitor. Contact Lance Stevens at [lstevens@aacademy.org](mailto:lstevens@aacademy.org). [Click here to view photos of both items.](#)

**Free Elementary Student Desks**

Golden View Classical Academy is giving away student desks. All desks need to be picked up at the school. There are several varieties of desks (all in good condition) available including: 8 Single combo student desk and chair, 176 single student desk with one cubby and adjustable legs and 73 double student desks with two cubbies and adjustable legs ([click here to view photos](#)). Please contact Kait Lochner at [klochner@goldenviewclassical.org](mailto:klochner@goldenviewclassical.org) to learn more or schedule a pick up.

**News Articles**

Colorado shied from taking aggressive action to fix its lowest performing schools. Will it be enough?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 14, 2017*

Dan Schaller, director of governmental affairs for the Colorado League of Charter Schools, challenged that contention. "We've got charter schools operating all across the state in different districts and they make it work," Schaller said. He added that "the real question" is whether school districts are willing to share available money with all schools or hold some back from charters.

Coffee Break: Denver Charter School Leader Bill Kurtz on Finding the Right Brew of Quality, Access and Integration

*Education Post - July 12, 2017*

Denver's DSST charter schools are one of the nation's premiere secondary school networks. Led by longtime CEO Bill Kurtz, DSST has expanded steadily in Denver and was recently approved to open a new campus in neighboring Aurora, Colorado. He talked with us about DSST's success and took a broader look at the nation's charter and choice landscape.

Every Kid Outdoors Act: Bipartisan bill wants to get 4th graders into national parks for free

*Denver 7 - July 12, 2017*

A bill making its way through both the House and the Senate in Washington, D.C. wants to provide 4th graders with free entry to all national parks. The Every Kid Outdoors Act aims to get kids outdoors and learn about their experiences while at the same time engaging in a bit of exercise. It also encourages more public and private partnerships between federal lands, schools and private and nonprofit organizations.

Colorado highlighted in national report on easing transition from preschool to kindergarten

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 11, 2017*

A new report highlights Colorado's efforts to more carefully track preschoolers' progress and make sure kindergarten teachers have that information when their new crop of students arrive.

Fewer teachers losing tenure in Denver, other large Colorado districts

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 11, 2017*

Fewer teachers in Colorado's six largest school districts are at risk of losing their job protections after back-to-back ineffective ratings, according to numbers provided by the districts.

New Jeffco superintendent has more questions than answers in tour of district

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 10, 2017*

New Jeffco Public Schools Superintendent Jason Glass introduced himself to the community Monday with an eight-site swing through the sprawling district, asking the same three questions of community members at every stop.

Outdated, sagging Colorado schools get \$300 million boost from pot sales, other taxes

*The Denver Post - July 9, 2017*

There is sadness about the eventual destruction of this community's school, parts of which were built 100 years ago.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife youth program to be honored with Starburst Award from Colorado Lottery

*Fox 21 News - July 8, 2017*

What started as a two-school pilot program to connect Colorado kids to the outdoors has quickly expanded to 35 elementary schools and growing.

Back to the Future with a New Kind of Open Classroom School

*One Day Magazine - June 5, 2017*

School buildings matter to the way students learn. The best can support deep thinking and exploration, and the newest support the integration of technology in learning. To examine how one school is rethinking space and learning, we spent a day at Roots Elementary, a freshly-built school in the Northeast Park Hill community of Denver.

## 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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[Richmond: Autonomy or Accountability? Good Charter School Authorizing Means Balancing the Two](#)

The 74 - July 12, 2017

Some criticize authorizers for stifling innovation, while others call out authorizers for allowing failing schools to replicate and grow - as Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) did in a recent report on charter management organizations (CMOs). So, this seems like the right time to shine a spotlight on good charter school authorizing - what we know it is and can be.

[Pagosa Peak Open School Hires Its Staff, Part One](#)

PagosaDailyPost.com - July 10, 2017

I had the pleasure of meeting with educator James Lewicki last week, over a cup of coffee at Higher Grounds, to discuss the ongoing development of Pagosa Peak Open School - the first charter school to be authorized by the Archuleta School District (ASD) since the passage of Colorado's 'Charter Schools Act' in 1993.

[Irvin & Gray - Reforming the Way We Govern Schools: Stronger Charter Boards Are Essential to Education Reform](#)

The 74 - July 10, 2017

Education policy reforms are only as good as the governance systems that promote and monitor them.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

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

[Another View](#)

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

[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

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, August 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$225 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee.

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

Denver

Description: During this event, participants will create a product called the "Data Team Action Plan". Through various readings, use of research-based resources and explicit modeling, attendees will build background knowledge about data team structures. The "Data Team Action Plan" will be written as a data teams implementation plan to support data teams over time in your school as well as engage in intervention based instructional strategies that will support data teams next steps.

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, July 28.

PowerSchool: Beginning of Year Readiness

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, August 3

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S. Spruce Street, Centennial

Meals: Lunch will not be provided

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$125 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee.

Description: Start the school year off on a positive note! Workshop attendees will assemble and complete their PowerSchool setup items. During this event, attendees will review settings at the school and district level, and learn how to set up new staff to ensure their data is ready for the new school year.

Audience: Registrar, Secretary, PS System Administrator

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, July 28.

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 4

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 \$125 per additional attendee | Non-members: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee.

Description: Are students displaying challenging behaviors that impact their learning and the learning of others? Not sure where to go next? This workshop is designed to enable school administrators, special education teachers, and other stakeholders to craft effective Tier II and Tier III behavior intervention plans for struggling students. Additionally, this workshop will provide training on Functional Behavioral Assessments, an essential component of the IEP process when a behavioral or developmental disorder is suspected.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, August 2.

Restorative Practices Workshop

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Thursday, August 10 - Friday, August 11

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

Location: Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling Street, Wheat Ridge

Description: Day one of this workshop will provide a philosophical overview of restorative practices in schools and the rationale as to why this will help with discipline issues, positive school climate, data tracking and aligning your RTI/PBIS programs. Designed particularly for administrators. Day two of the workshop will focus on communication skills, restorative practices and practical strategies that can be used immediately by teachers, counselors, security and administrative staff that want to improve relationships, behavior, and reduce discipline incidents in the classroom and hallways. This interactive workshop presents a spectrum of restorative techniques, offers implementation ideas, and explains how the process works. Designed for teachers and others who will be implementing restorative practices in their schools.

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

Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 11

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 \$125 per additional attendee | Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee.

Description: Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processes of reading. Participants will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle. In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of reading processes and building a stronger skill set in data-driven instruction, attendees will learn instructional best practices and evidence-based programming options for specialized instruction in reading and writing.

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, August 17

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 each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 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 instructional strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners; something you will also be able to experience as a participant.

Audience: ELA teachers, ELD teachers, ELD Coordinators, Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, August 14.

Instructional Coaching Practices

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 8

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 \$125 per additional attendee | Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee.

Description: This workshop will focus on two instructional coaching practices: 1.) Observation/Feedback Cycles, and 2.) Data Review Meetings. Participants will:

- Learn and apply an observation/feedback protocol called the 6 Steps for Effective Feedback
- Determine what to coach along with how to coach by digging into the management and rigor trajectories for new teachers
- Master and apply a simple protocol for engaging in 1:1 data meetings that harness the standard-based teaching and learning cycle
- Learn about tools and resources for ensuring accountability loops and tracking teacher growth

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 6.

Close Reading Strategies Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

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

Dates/Times:

Wednesday, September 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, October 18 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, November 15 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions

Target Audience: Teachers, Reading and/or Literacy Specialists and Interventionists, Reading Across the Curriculum Teachers, Instructional Coaches

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will learn a variety of ways to teach Common Core State standards through close reading rituals and various systematic strategies. These strategies can be used across the content areas and with various curriculum components. Teachers will be able to experience the close reading rituals with a variety of text, standards, models, and time to adjust existing lesson plans to embed and implement the close reading strategies learned. We will also learn how to make a close reading strategy a ritual, embed interventions, and receive quality feedback through reciprocal peer feedback. Lunch will be provided at each session.

Close Reading Strategies 101 (Wednesday, September 13)

Close Reading Strategies 102 (Wednesday, October 18)

Close Reading Strategies 103 (Wednesday, November 15)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 8.

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

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