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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**July 15, 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 Office Chairs**

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has a variety of office chairs available free to a charter school or new school developing group. [Click here](#) to view photos of the available items. If interested, email Stacy Rader at [srader@coloradoleague.org](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org). Must be able to pick up the items at the Colorado League of Charter Schools' office in Denver no later than July 29.

**Temporary School Furniture Needed**

Roots Elementary School in Denver has new school furniture ordered but arriving after their first day of school begins, August 15. They are in need of the following "temporary" furniture for their Kindergarten/Grade 1 classrooms. Furniture needed: chairs for 60 students (ideally around 14" high), shelving for 3 classrooms and 8 activity tables, preferably 3 horseshoe tables, too. If any school or organization can help with these furniture needs, please contact Jill Tew at [jill@rootselementary.org](mailto:jill@rootselementary.org).

**Free Used Books for Denver Area Schools**

Partners in Literacy, a Denver-based nonprofit, collects used children's and YA books (mostly fiction) and upcycles them to schools. If interested in getting books for your school, email Julie at [Julie@partersinliteracy.org](mailto:Julie@partersinliteracy.org). Include your name, your school's name, specific titles you are looking for or the grade-level of the books you need. Please specify if you need hardback or paperback books.

### **Free Children's Books**

The Molina Foundation will be giving away thousands of books this summer to children. The foundation's mission is to reduce disparities in access to education and health. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program and [click here](#) to apply.

### **Rolling Projector Carts For Sale**

Aurora Academy Charter School is selling 4 rolling projector carts for \$20 each. The rolling projector carts are 2' x 18", heights adjustable from 26" to 42". Each has an electrical power strip. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the cart (4 carts available). Please contact Stephen Snyder at [ssnyder@aacademy.org](mailto:ssnyder@aacademy.org).

### **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@aacademy.org](mailto:ssnyder@aacademy.org) or 720-341-1284 to learn more.

### **Furniture For Sale**

Windsor Charter Academy is selling school furniture in good condition. The furniture includes: student desks and chairs, kidney tables, and teacher desks and chairs. Please contact the school's Facilities Manager, Bambi Buss, at 970-518-9678 to make an appointment to view. Pictures and pricing available upon request.

## **News Articles**

[Colorado's charter schools are more diverse, performing better and paying teachers less, report shows](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 15, 2016*

Colorado's charter schools for the first time are enrolling racial and ethnic minority students at a higher rate than the state's district-run schools, a new report by the state education department shows.

[Commerce City school board chooses Arizona educator to lead struggling district](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 13, 2016*

A retired schools superintendent from Arizona has been selected to lead the Adams 14 School District, one of a handful of Colorado districts expected to face sanctions next year for chronic low performance on state tests.

[50 years ago, one report introduced Americans to the black-white achievement gap. Here's what we've learned since.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 13, 2016*

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most influential education research reports ever released.

[Why do women students drop out of STEM majors? CSU study pinpoints a culprit](#)

*Denver Business Journal - July 13, 2016*

Women are more likely than men to get discouraged by a particular math class and give up on their quest for a degree preparing them for a career in science, technology or engineering, according to a new study from researchers at Colorado State University.

[Colorado Department of Education announces 2016-17 free and reduced-price lunch income guidelines](#)

*Aurora Sentinel - July 13, 2016*

The Colorado Department of Education on Tuesday, July 12, released the 2016-17

income guidelines for families with children who may qualify to receive free or reduced-price lunch, breakfast and milk sold at local schools.

#### D-11 will consider applicants for open school board seat

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - July 12, 2016*

The issue of whether to appoint a replacement board position from names Colorado Springs School District 11 board members suggest or hold a public hearing for anyone interested in filling the vacated seat came down to a matter of semantics Tuesday night.

#### Colorado isn't producing nearly enough teachers, new report finds

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 12, 2016*

Lending support to the notion that Colorado's teacher shortage might get worse before it gets better, a new report shows that the state isn't producing enough teaching graduates to keep up with demand.

#### School District 27J to complete dozens of \$248 million bond funded projects by August

*The Denver Post - July 11, 2016*

While students are off for the summer, construction and maintenance crews are swarming the grounds of just about every school and charter school in School District 27J to work on dozens of expansion and upgrade projects funded by the passing of a \$248 million bond last fall.

#### Hancock's State Of The City: Denver Will Not 'Leave Anyone Behind'

*Colorado Public Radio - July 11, 2106*

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock took a victory lap for the city's recent growth in his state of the city speech on Monday.

#### The states that spend more money on prisoners than college students

*The Washington Post - July 7, 2016*

Since 1990, state and local spending on prisons and jails has risen more than three times faster than spending on schools, according to a new Department of Education report released Thursday.

#### Public Ed Advocates Wary of Democratic Establishment-And Here's Why

*Common Dreams - July 7, 2016*

Amid fights over trade deals, climate policy, and the minimum wage, the battle to save U.S. public education from the forces of corporatization and privatization has gotten minimal attention during the Democratic presidential primary.

#### Education Department Continues to Prod States to Rethink Testing

*U.S. News - July 6, 2016*

The Department of Education is continuing to press states and school districts to rethink their testing regimens, unveiling Wednesday a set of proposed assessment regulations under the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act.

## **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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### Lotus School for Excellence Receives Top Honors as #1 Most Challenging High School in Colorado

*Lotus School for Excellence - July 12, 2016*

Lotus School for Excellence (lotusschool.org) receives top honors as the number one most challenging high school in Colorado, according to the Washington Post's America's Most Challenging High Schools. The results list Lotus School for Excellence as number 101 nationally.

### Early childhood education steers kids toward success

*Arvada Press - July 11, 2016*

Frederick Douglass, the eminent abolitionist, author and social reformer, once said that it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

### **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**

### **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 per person; Non-member: \$99 per person

**Description:** Suppliers and service providers to the charter public 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.

### **Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan, #1**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, July 27

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** The Safe Schools Act for Colorado can be read in C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 The Act requires all schools, including charter schools, to adopt and implement a safe school plan. This School Safety Plan webinar series focuses on Subsection (4) of the Act and will lead each participating charter school through a step-by-step process to build and complete by June 30, 2017. This webinar series will help schools establish a

school response framework that shall consist of policies described in subsection (4) of the Act. By satisfying the requirements of subsection (4), a school shall be in compliance with the national incident management system, referred to in this subsection (4) as "NIMS", developed by the federal emergency management agency.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, July 26.

Register using a valid email address and the webinar URL will be emailed to you before July 27.

### **Active Shooter Response Training Instructor Course**

*Hosted by Loveland Classical Schools*

**Dates:** 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.](#)

### **Back to School Training: Risk Management and Practical Legal Topics for Your Charter School**

**Presenters:** *Representatives from the Colorado League of Charter Schools, Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC, and HUB International*

**Date:** Thursday, August 4

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Denver Metro TBD

**Cost:** League Members: \$55 for one person and \$35 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$75 for one person and \$35 each additional attendee. New Schools use promo code NEWSCHOOL for \$40 ticket price.

**Description:** Kick off the school year right with this timely seminar on risk management and legal issues. Managing a charter school facility can be complicated and can involve premises liability issues, school security practices and policies and liability coverage. This seminar will provide attendees with information on how to effectively manage your charter school facility to minimize risk and liability. Contracting with third parties is a common occurrence in the charter school sector, and often schools leave themselves vulnerable to liability due to a poor understanding of how to effectively draft and negotiate their contractual obligations. This workshop will teach you important tools to better understand and advocate for your school during the contracting process. No back to school seminar is complete without an employment law refresher! The most common HR questions the League receives pertain to policies relating to employee leave. This seminar will provide an employment law panel on key leave policies such as FMLA, ADA, maternity/paternity and more. We will use real charter school policies and experiences as examples, and encourage attendees to bring your leave policies to discuss and review during the workshop. Additional employment law topics will include important trends in social media and technology, and how these impact both employees and students within your charter school.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, August 1.

### **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.

## **Charter Communicators Network Meeting**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, September 8

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Location:** Peak to Peak Charter School, 800 Merlin Drive, Lafayette

**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.

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

## **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.

### **Interpreting Reading Data to Close Gaps and Strengthen Student Achievement**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Tuesday, September 27

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:30 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:** What evidence do you use to identify reading ability gaps and struggling readers? Build expertise in interpreting reading assessment data in order to accurately identify reading needs. Learn to select targeted instructional strategies appropriate for struggling readers and their specific needs.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 21.  
Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 registrants.

### **State Assessment Interpretation & Action**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, September 28

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:30 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:** Do you understand your state assessment results? Can you make meaning of the scale scores? Do you know how to translate your state data into action? This session is a deep dive into your state assessment data. Learn more about the assessment itself and look at your data to identify strengths and needs. You will leave this session feeling more confident in using and discussing your state data.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Thursday, September 22. Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 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.

### **Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning**

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, October 7

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

**Cost:** League Member: \$175, additional attendees \$100; Non-Member: \$225, additional attendees \$100

**Description:** Is the honeymoon period over? 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, the workshop will provide training on Functional Behavioral Assessments, an essential component of the IEP process when a behavioral or developmental disorder is suspected. School Personnel will take away several resources for best practices in behavior interventions: data collection tools, behavior change monitoring tools, strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS, social emotional learning intervention programs, and sample MTSS structures for

behavior/social emotional learning.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 5. Event contingent on a minimum of 8 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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