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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
 CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



July 22, 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](mailto:Kerri.Barclay@coloradoleague.org), Communications Associate at the League.

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **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@partnersinliteracy.org](mailto:Julie@partnersinliteracy.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 register/apply.

***The deadline for registration is August 1.***

### **Hardback Cover Books for Sale**

The Odyssey School of Denver has 24 never-been-used hardback copies of the adult version of [Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand](#) available at a reduced price. Email [Julie@partnersinliteracy.org](mailto:Julie@partnersinliteracy.org) for more information or to make an offer.

### **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**

### Meet the 17 people who will help reshape Colorado's education policies

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 21, 2016*

A who's who of Colorado's education community will help shape the state's new federally required education plan. The 17-member committee will be responsible for finding consensus while sifting through wide-ranging opinions about how Colorado should run its schools under the new Every Student Succeeds Act, which is supposed to give states more freedom to chart their own courses.

### Charter advocates hope favorable report leads to more equitable funding

*Colorado Watchdog - July 21, 2016*

Charter school advocates are bullish on a recent Colorado Department of Education report that touts the racial diversity and academic success of charter schools. They're also hopeful it spurs lawmakers to close the funding gap between charters and traditional public schools in the 2017 legislative session.

### Pueblo superintendent resigns abruptly as state sanctions loom

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 20, 2016*

Pueblo City Schools, the largest school district in Colorado expected to face state sanctions next year for poor academic performance, is without a leader. Superintendent Constance Jones resigned Wednesday effective immediately after two years in the post, the school board announced during a brief emergency meeting.

### Distrust, anger at Douglas County School Board over handling of student

*The Denver Post - July 20, 2016*

In a Douglas County schools meeting that lasted until nearly 1 a.m., some board members maintained that two of their colleagues behaved inappropriately when they had a private meeting with a 15-year-old Ponderosa High School student in March, despite an investigation that found the members did not violate school or district policy.

### How adding high school counselors saved Colorado more than \$300 million

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 19, 2016*

Money spent to bring in more middle school and high school counselors helped keep almost 1,000 at-risk students in Colorado schools and send more of them to college, a new report shows.

### Free lunch coming to more Colorado kids who attend high-poverty schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 19, 2016*

More high-poverty Colorado schools will offer free meals to all students regardless of

family income this year under a federal program aimed at reducing red tape and ensuring that more kids are focused on learning, not growling stomachs

#### Campaign to lift tax limitations, spend more money on schools calls it quits

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 19, 2016*

The proposal would have allowed the state to keep revenue it collected over current limits set by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR, for the next decade. At least 35 percent of that revenue would have been gone to schools. Money also would have gone to roads, mental health care and senior services, among other items.

#### Los Angeles is getting its first girls-only charter middle school

*Los Angeles Daily News - July 19, 2016*

The original GALS campus opened in Denver five years ago and ranks in the top 10 of all public high schools in that city, said Carrie Wagner, executive director of GALS LA, an independent charter school.

#### What the Republican platform says about education

*Politico - July 19, 2016*

On testing and the Common Core: Republicans "congratulate" states that have "repealed" the academic standards. And on testing, they find some common ground with Democrats: The platform rejects "excessive testing and 'teaching to the test' and supports the need for strong assessments to serve as a tool so teachers can tailor teaching to meet student needs." The platform also encourages "instruction in American history and civics by using the original documents of our founding fathers."

#### Attorney: Lawsuit does not seek to close charter schools

*The Washington Times - July 18, 2016*

An attorney for Southern Poverty Law Center says the group is not trying to close charter schools in Mississippi, but is only trying to have the schools' funding formula declared unconstitutional.

#### Applications accepted to be appointed to Colorado Springs school district board

*Colorado Springs Gazette - July 18, 2016*

Any registered voter who lives in the boundaries of Colorado Springs School District 11 can apply to become a candidate for appointment to the open seat on the district's board of education.

#### Five things to know about where Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper stands on education

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 18, 2016*

How the Democratic governor and his team led the conversation toward a compromise - and their insistence on preserving a key piece of the current testing regime - provides a glimpse at how a man being mentioned as vice presidential material thinks about complex education issues.

#### Denver Superintendent Tom Boasberg on what he learned during his six months abroad

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 18, 2016*

In November, he announced that he would take an unprecedented six-month break starting in January to live abroad with his wife and three kids. Senior administrator Susana Cordova was named acting superintendent in his absence.

Now that Boasberg has returned, Cordova will assume the role of deputy superintendent, a position that didn't previously exist, the district confirmed Monday.

#### Loveland Classical Schools teacher gets playground grant

*Reporter-Herald - July 18, 2016*

Loveland teacher Cathy Ballenski received \$2,500 from Farmer's Insurance to install large pipe chimes and colorful drumming instruments on the playground at Loveland Classical Schools. The equipment will provide physical and mental exercise for students, and for those who access the playground outside of school, to develop strong bodies and minds, according to a news release.

Report: More Colorado families choosing charter schools; performance is mixed

*Colorado Springs Gazette - July 15, 2016*

Statewide, more families are choosing charter schools, which receive per-pupil state funding and don't charge tuition but have more autonomy than traditional public schools in governance, curriculum and operations.

Boulder Prep tries 'intensive' summer classes to immerse students in subjects

*Boulder Daily Camera - July 13, 2016*

Boulder Preparatory students gathered in a field outside the Gunbarrel high school on Wednesday to help launch a weather balloon. The students, who are taking a class on meteorology, watched the balloon ascend until it was about the size of a grain of rice, then went to their classroom to track its progress recorded by an attached GPS system.

## 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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First Person: Hunger is a learning issue: Why it's important for teachers to care about the minimum wage debate

Chalkbeat Colorado - July 18, 2016

The federal government recognizes that students need proper nutrition to learn. But when we dig into the numbers, the National School Lunch Program also acknowledges that the minimum wage is not a sufficient wage with which to feed a child.

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

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 a school-specific plan 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: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S. Spruce Street, Centennial

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 school developers: \$35 per person.

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. It 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 their charter school facility to minimize risk and liability. Contracting with third parties is a common occurrence in the charter school sector. Schools often leave themselves vulnerable to liability due to a poor understanding of how to effectively draft and negotiate their contractual obligations. This workshop will provide attendees with important tools to better understand and advocate for their 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 feature an employment law panel on key leave policies such as FMLA, ADA, maternity/paternity and more. Presenters will use real charter school policies and experiences as examples. Attendees are encouraged to bring their 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 charter school employees and students.

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.

Fall Charter School Summit: Facility, Finance & Policy

Formerly the Annual Finance Seminar and Policy & Facility Summit

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, September 26

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$75 per person for schools that are members of the Colorado League of Charter Schools | \$100 per person for non-members. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Group Discount: There is a 20% discount when registering groups of three or more. Please enter discount code 20GROUP at checkout when registering three or more attendees.

Location: TBA

Description: The Fall Charter School Summit is designed to provide charter school leaders, business managers and board members with important updates related to policy, finance and facilities management. Innovations in the field of operations and financial management as well as ongoing policy issues affecting charter schools will be highlighted. Attendees will also hear from individuals experienced in all aspects of the charter school facilities process and learn decision-making best practices regarding facilities projects for their schools.

Please note: The 2016 Fall Charter School Summit represents a combination of what had previously been two separate events - the CDE Annual Charter School Finance Seminar and the League's Charter School Policy and Facility Summit. Consistent with prior requirements of the Finance Seminar, all CCSP Grant recipients are required to attend this event.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Contact Tiffany Kallevik (tkallevik@coloradoleague.org) for more information.

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

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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