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## July 29, 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

### **Take Action to Protect Charter School Autonomy!**

The U.S. Department of Education released draft regulations that will govern State frameworks for Title I accountability and state plans under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Charter schools will be impacted by these regulations - and it is critical that the voice of the charter school community is heard! The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools has drafted a letter that any charter school supporter can submit. [Click here](#) to read this letter and submit it to the U.S. Department of Education.

### **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.***

### **Free Desks and Chairs**

Windsor Charter Academy is giving away free student desks, teacher desks and office chairs. Please contact the school's Facilities Manager, Bambi Buss, at 970-518-9678 for more information or to make an appointment to view.

### **Free Cafeteria Tables**

Aspen Ridge Preparatory School in Erie, Colorado has three different cafeteria tables available free to a charter school or new school developing group. If interested, email

Carrie Cantwell at [ccantwell@aspenridgeprepschool.org](mailto:ccantwell@aspenridgeprepschool.org).

### **Prentice Hall Literature Common Core Curriculum Books**

Atlas Prep in Colorado Springs has a number of like new and new copies of Prentice Hall Literature Common Core curriculum books (Grade 5, 6, 7, 8), Write Source books and Reading Street. Essentially unused and no writing in them other than numbering system and school label. They are asking \$10 a book. If interested, please contact: Brittney Stroh at [bstroh@atlasprep.org](mailto:bstroh@atlasprep.org) or 719-358-7196, ext. 350.

### **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.

## **News Articles**

### Secretary of Education John King to visit Denver, tout Colorado's new mandatory child care rating system

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 29, 2016*

Colorado's efforts to improve the quality of its early childhood programs will get a moment in the spotlight Monday when U.S. Secretary of Education John King swings through Denver as part of a two-day tour calling attention to the issue.

### Will diet soda be allowed back in Colorado high schools?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 28, 2016*

After a seven-year ban, diet soda would get the green light to return to high school vending machines if the State Board of Education approves proposed changes to state beverage rules next month. Education department officials say they are making the recommendation to align Colorado rules with new federal rules and reduce schools' regulatory burden.

### Colorado's charter schools: more diverse, more segregated

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 25, 2016*

A state report released this month showed that for the first time, Colorado's charter schools educated a larger proportion of racial and ethnic minorities than district-run schools. The report found that 47 percent of students enrolled at a Colorado charter identify as a racial or ethnic minority. That's two percentage points higher than at district-run schools.

### Clinton looks to move Democrats away from "Education Wars"

*The Hechinger Report - July 24, 2016*

"When schools get it right, whether they are traditional public schools or public charter schools, let's figure out what's working," said Clinton to loud boos over the mention of charter schools, which are publicly-funded, independently run public schools that often employ non-unionized teachers. Clinton paused and continued: "We don't have time for these education wars."

### Requirements for free, discounted school meals could change under pending legislation

*Colorado Springs Gazette - July 23, 2016*

Parents do not have to submit proof of income - such as tax forms or pay stubs - when applying for the benefit [Free and Reduced Lunch]. And their chances of being selected for income verification are slim. That could change under The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act, which is working its way through congressional approval.

### Colorado Education Department to Pueblo school district: Let us help

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 22, 2016*

he Colorado Department of Education is offering to play an unusually large role in guiding troubled Pueblo City Schools through a period of turmoil.

Texas charter schools see obstacle to growth

*MyStatesman.com - July 22, 2016*

Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools can't levy property tax to help pay for their facilities, so they rely on fundraising and setting aside some of the state money they receive for day-to-day operations.

## 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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Three Charter Schools Receive Colorado Health Foundation Healthy Schools Grant

*High Point Academy - July 28, 2016*

Colorado charter public schools High Point Academy (Aurora), Academy 360 (Denver), and Crown Pointe Academy (Westminster) have received funding from The Colorado Health Foundation. Over a two-year period, the funds will allow for the creation of a comprehensive health and wellness plan and implementation across the three schools.

Izard: Colorado charter schools performing well, growing quickly

*The Greeley Tribune - July 27, 2016*

Every three years, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) publishes a comprehensive report on Colorado's charter school sector. The 2016 State of Charter Schools report was published this month. The report - and its unsurprisingly encouraging findings - could hardly have arrived at a more critical juncture.

Opinion: Bring more financial transparency to schools

*Pueblo Chieftain - July 23, 2016*

According to a 2015 Gallup poll, only 55 percent of American adults own stocks, meaning that only about half of American adults have a vested interest in the finances of public corporations. Yet the responsibility of funding public education extends to nearly all taxpayers, so almost all taxpayers have a vested interest in the finances of public schools. Why, then, do public corporations have stricter financial reporting requirements than public school districts?

Rocky Mountain HIGHHHHHH!!! (Charter Test Scores!)

*Jay P. Greene's Blog - July 19, 2016*

Colorado's Department of Education released a study of state scores showing that the state's charter schools scored higher than districts on the state exam. So in 2015 Colorado charter school students also rocked the NAEP. The charts below will slice and dice the NAEP 8th grade math exam by subgroups, and displays Colorado charter students only to the top 10 scoring states by subgroup...

### 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

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

*Hosted by 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.](#)

### **Lunch & Learn: DIBELS Next and Core Knowledge Language Arts: Getting Results**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Amplify.*

**Date:** Tuesday, August 16

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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

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

**Description:** You can move the needle! Thousands of Colorado educators are using curriculum and assessment tools every day to change outcomes for kids. Join us to find out how. Learn about the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project, a FREE resource to help your school in implementing the READ Act. Amplify also publishes a full ELA curriculum called Core Knowledge Language Arts (PreK-5). Get those details for your school needs.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** August 15.

### **Authorizers Meeting**

*Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Office*

**Date:** Friday, August 26

**Time:** 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

**Location:** The Daniels Fund, 101 Monroe Street, Denver

**Description:** A training offered four times a year at various locations across the state, designed to highlight best practices and developing and reviewing tools for charter oversight.

**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.

### **Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan (Webinar 2 of 5)**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Tuesday, September 20

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

**Cost:** Free

Location: Online/Webinar

**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 public 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 public school through a step-by-step process to build and complete their school-specific plan by June 30, 2017. This webinar series (5 webinars) 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:** September 19.

Please register using a valid email address and the webinar link will be sent to you before September 20.

### **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](mailto: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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