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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
 CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



January 13, 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

### **Early Bird Rates End Today - Colorado Charter Schools Conference**

Register today for the [2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference](#), scheduled for February 23 and 24 in Broomfield. The Colorado Charter Schools Conference is one of the most comprehensive professional development opportunities for new and veteran charter public school staff, boards, administrators and teachers. **[Click here to view the breakout session titles and schedule.](#)** Early bird rates end today! Learn more and register at [www.COCharterConference.org](http://www.COCharterConference.org)

### **Transportation Funds Available for Colorado School Choice Week Rally**

Attend the Colorado School Choice Rally on the west steps of the State Capitol in Denver on Thursday, January 26 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Help us make sure that charter public schools are well represented at this fun event. Transportation dollars are still available! If your school is interested in bringing a bus full (or more) of students, please contact Stacy Rader at [srader@coloradoleague.org](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org) as soon as possible.

### **2017 Core Knowledge Conference - Call For Presenters**

Swallows Charter Academy in Pueblo West is hosting the 2017 Core Knowledge Conference and is in need of presenters. If interested, please complete [this form](#). The conference will take place on February 17 from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. If you would like to present or attend the conference, please contact Cindy Compton at 719-547-7230 or [cocompton@district70.org](mailto:cocompton@district70.org) to learn more. [Click here to view flyer.](#)

### **Rights Of Students With Disabilities In Public Charter Schools Webinar**

The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) is hosting a webinar called "Rights of Students with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools" on January 18 at 12:00 PM (EST). The webinar will be a presentation of the guidance package released on December 29 developed by the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Advance Your Career With An Ed.D In Charter School Administration**

William Howard Taft University, in Denver, has announced that students who can allocate the time to progress through its Ed.D. Program at an accelerated pace have a unique opportunity to save a significant amount of tuition. With a grant from The Taft University System, tuition is only \$336 per month! Studies must begin by April 1. [Learn more today!](#)

### **CDE Seeks Responses To Parent-Friendly Report Survey**

Based on recommendations from the state's Accountability Workgroup, CDE is beginning to develop new, easy-to-understand reports for parents and community members about their schools and districts. The reports will include status on school and district performance frameworks and other information that would be meaningful to communities.

In order to determine what parents and other community members would like to see in the reports, CDE has developed a survey to gather ideas. The survey asks about what kind of information parents want about their schools, such as performance (e.g., test results, improvement strategies), school details (e.g., teacher turnover, student safety, course offerings) and student information (e.g., attendance, demographics, suspensions, college course taking). The survey is available through January. An English language version of the survey can be found [here](#) and a Spanish language version can be found [here](#).

## **News Articles**

### Hickenlooper calls for "common sense" plan to fund Colorado schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 12, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper called on leaders from both parties Thursday to find a "common sense" plan to fund the state's schools. Hickenlooper, in his second-to-last State of the State address, described it as the only way the state can close the gap between its low-performing students and its high achievers.

### Colorado's student population is growing - but not so fast

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 12, 2017*

Colorado's student population this school year grew at its slowest rate since 1989, further evidence that shifting demographics are having a significant impact on public schools. The state added fewer than 6,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, an increase of 0.7 percent, according to a report released Thursday by the state education department.

### Jeffco school board votes to launch search for new superintendent

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 12, 2017*

Citing a desire to seek out a more effective leader and denying that politics were at play, Jefferson County school board members voted unanimously Thursday to launch a search for a new superintendent.

Education funding debate a top priority for Colorado lawmakers, but bipartisan solutions elusive as session starts

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 11, 2017*

Colorado legislative leaders didn't mince words on the 2017 session's opening day: Improving Colorado's congested and crumbling roads is their top priority. But funding the state's schools isn't far behind. Colorado's first Latina Speaker of the House, Rep. Crisanta Duran, spoke at length about finding a way to send more money to the state's schools - and the consequences if lawmakers fail.

His job on the line, Jeffco superintendent says he's been given no hint of problems

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 11, 2017*

Controversy surrounded Dan McMinimee's summer 2014 hiring as superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools, the state's second largest school district.

Democrats take control of Colorado State Board of Education, Schroeder appointed chair

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 11, 2017*

Angelika Schroeder was selected with unanimous support Wednesday to serve as chair of the State Board of Education, the first action taken by a newly constituted board under Democratic control for the first time in nearly 50 years.

High court may put more bite into law for disabled students

*The Denver Post via AP - January 11, 2017*

The Supreme Court on Wednesday seemed willing to put more bite into a law that requires public schools to help learning-disabled students. Most of the justices indicated during arguments that school districts must offer more than the bare minimum of services to children with special needs. But they struggled over how to clarify the law without inviting even more litigation between frustrated parents and cash-strapped schools.

Colorado at center of Supreme Court case that examines standards for special-needs students

*The Denver Post - January 10, 2017*

A dispute over the education of an autistic student from Colorado will get a hearing Wednesday before the U.S. Supreme Court in a case that could impact how parents and public schools nationwide teach children with special needs.

Proposed Lakewood Montessori to be voted on by Jeffco school board Thursday

*Lakewood Sentinel - January 10, 2017*

The Jefferson County Board of Education will once again hear the application for Great Works Montessori, a proposed charter school in East Lakewood.

Hickenlooper stands firm on testing ninth-graders, but which test will they take?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 10, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday reasserted his support for continuing standardized testing in the ninth grade but did not indicate whether he would support dropping the existing tests to better align with those given to other high school students.

What we'll be listening for at the confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos, Trump's education pick

*Chalkbeat - January 10, 2017*

If Sen. Elizabeth Warren keeps her promises, Betsy DeVos is in for a challenging

confirmation hearing next week.

Successful schools focus on what students build, not test scores, says Google education evangelist

*Denver Business Journal - January 10, 2017*

Children are often asked what they want to be when they grow up when they should instead be asked what problem they want to solve when they grow up. "We need a shift in education. We need to create a model that reflects innovation happening in the world," said Jaime Casap, chief education evangelist at Google, a unit of Mountain View, California-based Alphabet Inc.

Montessori school seeking grant funding from Steamboat's half-cent sales tax

*Steamboat Today - January 9, 2017*

Mountain Village Montessori founder Kristen Rockford will make her case to the Education Fund Board Wednesday for why the public charter school should be eligible for funds from the city's half-cent sales tax.

Seven education storylines to watch as the Colorado General Assembly gets to work

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 6, 2017*

As Colorado lawmakers return to the Capitol on Wednesday to begin crafting education policy and setting spending priorities, they face significant budget challenges, an uncertain transition in Washington and a growing chorus of educators fatigued by change.

'Classic' school taking shape

*Reporter-Herald News - January 2, 2017*

A beam signed by Loveland Classical Schools' students is embedded in the two-story school that is going up quickly in northwest Loveland.

## 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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Hoping for compromise as Colorado readies its 2017 legislative session

The Denver Post - January 9, 2017

Colorado's lawmakers will convene in Denver Wednesday to try and resolve some of the state's most pressing issues: a better K-12 and higher education system; improved transportation and infrastructure; and increased availability of affordable housing.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

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

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

[Charter School Solutions Blog](#)

[Charter Schools In Perspective](#)

[Chartering Quality Blog \(National Association for Charter School Authorizers\)](#)

[Democrats for Education Reform Blog](#)

[EdisWatching.org \(Independence Institute\)](#)

[Education Post](#)

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

[National Charter School Resource Center](#)

Community Calendar

Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan (Webinar 4 of 5)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, January 17

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Cost: Free

Description: The Safe Schools Act for Colorado can be read in C.R.S. 22-32-109.1: <http://schoolsafetysummit.org/safe-schools/> 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 consisting 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:** Monday, January 16. Please register using a valid email address and the URL will be sent to you before January 17.

URL to Webinar #1: <https://coloradoleague.adobeconnect.com/p79njmqjcg/>

URL to Webinar #2: <https://coloradoleague.adobeconnect.com/p4kvubqjs12/>

URL to Webinar #3: <https://coloradoleague.adobeconnect.com/p3n7le0e3tk/>

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, January 17

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 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 (ELL) 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 workshop will also focus on instructional strategies for English Language learners of varying levels.

Participants will learn:

- The key elements of an effective English Language Development Plan.
- The basics of WIDA standards and how to incorporate them into your daily learning objectives.
- Instructional research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your

classroom.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, January 13.

Formative and Summative Assessment Practices

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:

- **Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 101 | Friday, January 20 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM**
- **Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 102 | Thursday, February 9 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM**
- **Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 103 | Friday, March 3 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

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

Cost: League Members: \$300 per person for all three sessions. | Non-Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions | \$200 for each additional attendee.

Target Audience: Teachers, Specialists, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists, Administration

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will build background knowledge on creating and using effective formative and summative assessments practices in their classroom. Participants will be asked to bring assessments data, sample assessments, school-based lesson plans, and student work samples. In each of the sessions, participants will build background knowledge of various types of assessments, how to plan and implement assessment practices to support quality instruction, create structures for systematic checks for understanding, and creating quality criteria to discover what you want to learn from the assessment. Lunch will be provided for each of the three sessions.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, January 18.

Global Education Symposium

Hosted by EF Education First and Learning Forward Colorado

Date: Saturday, January 21

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: EF Education First, 1755 Blake St. Suite 300, Denver

Cost: Free (this event is free to administrators and teachers working with grades 6-12, but space is limited). Participants will earn 6.5 hours of free Professional Development credit.

Description: Please join EF Education First, Learning Forward Colorado, and administrators and teachers from around the state for an engaging day of workshops focused on developing global citizenship, leadership, and cultural competency in your school community.

During the day you'll interact with global education experts, hear from students about the successful impact of educational travel, examine models of effective global education programs, and explore how to help students effectively access and analyze cultural diversity within our world.

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

Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, January 23

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: This workshop will apply research-based strategies for teaching adult learners to support teachers in learning how to structure, plan, and lead effective professional development workshops. This session will build upon the instructional leaders' capacity to lead school-based PD sessions in their areas of expertise.

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

Lunch & Learn: Streamline the Way You Use Data

Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, January 24

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cost: Free

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

Description: School systems have expected teachers to better differentiate learning for their students, but have rarely provided the tools that enabled teachers to do so. So many organizations are data rich but information poor. Otus is a platform that houses Instructional Tools, Classroom Management Tools, and Data Analytics. Attend this Lunch and Learn to find out how data can be best utilized by teachers and administrators. Attendees will also hear about the other tools that Otus has to offer.

Presenter: Jennifer Gurss, Regional Sales Manager at Otus.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, January 23.

School Choice Week Rally

Date: Thursday, January 26

Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Colorado State Capitol - West Steps, 200 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver

Description: Celebrate all of the amazing school choice options available in Colorado. Hear from students, teachers and community leaders. Participate in the School Choice Week Dance and hear from Colorado elected officials. The Rally is a chance for students to celebrate school choice, participate in the School Choice Week Dance, hear from students from a variety of school types, and hear from Colorado state legislators. Help us make sure that charter public schools are well represented at this fun event. Transportation dollars are available!

Registration: If your school is interested in bringing a bus full (or more) of students, please contact Stacy Rader at srader@coloradoleague.org as soon as possible.

Governance Webinars: Recruitment and Oversight

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Charter Board Partners

Date: Thursday, January 26

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: Free

Description: The Charter Board Partners and the Colorado League of Charter schools would like to present you with an opportunity to view governance webinars relating to oversight of a governance board and recruitment of governance board members. You will have the ability to view the webinars at your convenience as they are both recorded for review. We will be offering two conference calls should you have any questions after viewing the webinar(s). These calls will occur on Thursday, January 26 from 11:00 AM -12:00 PM (see instructions below) and Thursday, March 2 from 3:00

PM - 4:00 PM

(see March 2 event in our calendar). Please feel free to call in either day to receive guidance and support.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, January 25.

Business Manager Network Meeting

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and CDE Schools of Choice Unit

Date: Friday, January 27

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Denver Metro TBD

Cost: \$35 per person

Description: These meetings are hosted jointly by the SOC Unit and the Colorado League of Charter Schools and occur bi-monthly on Fridays during the school year. Each meeting includes the Business Manager 101 course for those with less than three years' experience, networking and troubleshooting for more experienced managers, and Responsive and Technical Expert presentations on key issues of relevance to all business managers.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 24.

Using NWEA MAP Data to Accelerate Student Growth

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and NWEA

Date: Tuesday, January 31

Time: 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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

Cost: Free

Note: Lunch will be provided.

Description: Join your charter colleagues and Brad Banich, NWEA Senior Account Executive, for this interactive learning session in which attendees will:

- Hear from Atlas Preparatory School on how they use data to help all students grow, the tremendous growth their students are achieving, and strategies participants can walk away with to use at school immediately.
- Learn how Parker Core Knowledge Charter School is leveraging MAP data to help teachers improve understanding of their student's growth and reports and how student growth impacts teacher evaluations.
- Listen to a brief overview of NWEA's MAP and Skills Navigator assessment tools from Legacy Academy and how Skills Navigator can be a useful classroom tool for increasing efficiency for teachers.
- Have an opportunity for Q & A - an open forum for questions and discussion around assessment use in Colorado's charter schools.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, January 23.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, February 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Denver Metro TBD

Cost: \$25 per person

Description: These meetings enable charter school technology personnel to regularly network and share best practices with one another. The Colorado League of Charter Schools hosts, facilitates and coordinates these quarterly meetings in an effort to learn about and provide the resources and tools needed by schools to: 1) Develop effective

technology plans for their organizations; 2) Develop efficient and cost-effective methods of implementation; and 3) Maximize the performance of their technology in growing student achievement levels.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 31.

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 per person and \$50 for each additional | Non-Members: \$100 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee

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:** Friday, February 3.

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

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