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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



January 20, 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**

**Colorado Charter Schools Conference Will Sell Out - Register Today!**

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. This year's event will sell out! Learn more and register at [www.COCharterConference.org](http://www.COCharterConference.org)

**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 [ccompton@district70.org](mailto:ccompton@district70.org) to learn more. [Click here to view flyer](#).

**9th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair**

Hosted by The Center for Professional Development at Peak to Peak Charter School

Date: Saturday, March 18

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Lotus School for Excellence Job Fair

Date: Saturday, April 8

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Lotus School for Excellence, 11001 E. Alameda Avenue, Aurora

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Help STEM Academy Win the Verizon Innovative App Challenge

Seven students from STEM Academy are in the running to win \$15,000 and a trip to MIT to move their idea for an innovative app to reality. The STEM students created an app concept called "We the People" that would help people to screen out fake, unreliable news sources. [Click here](#) to view the students :30 commercial which explains the idea in more detail. **To vote -- text WETHEPPL to 22333. Voting is open through February 14.**

## News Articles

[Colorado's graduation rate hits six-year high, with both big spikes and declines in metro Denver](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 19, 2017*

Colorado's four-year high school graduation rate reached a six-year high last year, with some metro Denver districts that serve at-risk students showing marked improvement and others taking steps back. The on-time graduation rate for the class of 2016 was 78.9 percent, according to data released Wednesday by the state education department. That's a 1.6 percentage point jump from the previous year.

[Colorado middle school students to attend inauguration](#)

*9News - January 18, 2017*

A small public charter school in Frederick is sending a group of seventh and eighth graders to Washington, D.C. in time to witness Friday's inauguration of the 45th president. Carbon Valley Academy along I-25, just north of Denver, sends students to Washington, D.C. every other year. Those trips usually happen in May, but because of the inauguration, the school decided to schedule this year's flight a few months early.

[Douglas County School District extends interim superintendent's contract](#)

*Douglas County News-Press - January 18, 2017*

The Douglas County Board of Education has extended the contract of Interim Superintendent Erin Kane through the 2017-18 school year, meaning the school district will continue to hold off on a search for a new permanent leader.

[Hickenlooper pot tax hike plan vaults debate over education spending to forefront](#)

*The Denver Post - January 18, 2017*

Top Colorado lawmakers on Wednesday gave a package of tax hikes introduced a day earlier by Gov. John Hickenlooper an uneasy reception, with members of both parties suggesting they found the proposal lacking but are uncertain of how to proceed.

[State board increasingly siding with charter schools on appeals, prompting Colorado districts to rethink their role](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 18, 2017*

When charter schools in Colorado feel like local school districts aren't giving them a fair chance to open, they can ask the state Board of Education - a seven-member board of elected officials - to serve as referee.

[Sen. Michael Bennet to Betsy DeVos: Come visit Denver, where school choice is different](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 18, 2017*

Could the next Republican secretary of education soon be visiting Denver Public Schools, a popular destination for the last two Democrats who've held the job?

2 new Colorado Springs charter facilities to offer a 'sober' high school and a military-style K-12 academy

*The Gazette - January 17, 2017*

Two niche charter schools with specializations not currently offered in Colorado - a "sober" high school and a military-style K-12 academy - are making progress toward opening in Colorado Springs this year.

Hickenlooper floats pot sales tax hike to bridge school funding gap

*The Denver Post - January 17, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday asked Colorado lawmakers for a 50 percent increase in sales taxes on recreational marijuana starting July 1 to send an additional \$42 million to public schools.

Johnston launches gubernatorial bid with proposal for debt-free college, career training

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 17, 2017*

Former state Sen. Michael Johnston launched his gubernatorial bid Tuesday by saying Colorado's future hinges on how the state meets the challenges of a changing economy, reimagines its schools and bridges cultural divides.

Denver Mayor Hancock names Happy Haynes as new deputy mayor

*The Denver Post - January 16, 2017*

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock has designated parks director Allegra "Happy" Haynes as the city's deputy mayor for 2017, his office has confirmed.

Glenwood High design teacher sees big hope in tiny home project

*PostIndependent / Citizen Telegram - January 15, 2017*

Got a new washer/dryer set, stove or other domestic necessity you'd like to donate? Drop Steve Eaton an email at Glenwood Springs High School, and he will ensure it is put to good use not only as an educational tool in his classroom but as a component of a larger project he hopes will help solve one of the greatest issues facing the region.

D60 rolls out open enrollment campaign to attract more students

*The Pueblo Chieftain - January 14, 2017*

Hoping to attract more students into the district, Pueblo City Schools (D60) unveiled a revamped open enrollment campaign during Thursday's work session of the board of education.

## **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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Hundreds of School Choice Supporters to Gather on the West Steps of the Capitol

Business Wire - January 19, 2017

Advocates, students, parents, and teachers representing a broad coalition of school

choice options will come together to celebrate educational opportunity at the Capitol during National School Choice Week. On Thursday, January 26 at 11:30 a.m. more than 800 people - mostly Colorado students - will gather on the west steps of the State Capitol in Denver. The event will feature testimonials from students and parents who have selected a wide variety of different schooling options in Colorado. Attendees will also participate in the 2017 National School Choice Week dance.

Will Betsy DeVos Divide the School Choice Movement?

Education Week - January 17, 2017

Donald Trump's election to be the 45th president of the United States gives a huge boost to the movement for school choice-but may also foreshadow its undoing.

School Choice Matters for Colorado Families

North Denver Tribune - January 13, 2017

In our country, we love to customize, whether it's a new addition to the house or the colors and fonts surrounding our text messages. We choose everything, from our line of work to our preferred place to grab lunch (where we probably customize our lunch order).

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

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.

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.

Recorded Webinars and Live Q&A Governance Recruitment and Oversight

Hosted by Charter Board Partners and Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 26

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Conference Call

Description: Watch these informative pre-recorded webinars at your leisure then join us for a live Q&A call on Thursday, January 26 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

[Governance Recruitment Webinar](#)

[Governance Oversight Webinar](#)

Registration: Pre-registration is not required. To access the call dial 1-800-977-8002 and enter participant code 577658#.

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: Staples Corporate Office, 1 Environmental Way, Broomfield

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

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.

Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 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: Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processes of reading. Participants will be able to improve student achievement by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle that includes:

- Teachers using various screeners to assess the different processes of reading.
- Teachers plotting and analyzing screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Teachers triangulating data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Teachers prioritizing instruction through a problem solving process.
- Teachers implementing prioritized instruction and progress monitoring goals/objectives.
- Teachers reviewing progress monitoring and adjusting 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:** Friday, February 3.

Webinar: Revised NWEA Growth "Norms" for Alternative Students and Schools

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: Free

Description: Dr. Jody Ernst, lead author of the first-ever study of alternative growth norms using NWEA (2009), will present revised student-level growth "norms" for NWEA's Reading, Mathematics, and Language Usage Assessments, using data from over 300 alternative education campuses (AEC) across the country. In addition, school-level growth "norms", by grade level, will be presented as well as a national percentile rank distribution of school RIT growth. Dr. Ernst will discuss how each set of norms can be used by alternative schools and how the data from this research will inform how Colorado will use NWEA metrics for accountability in the future.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will become familiar with:

- Updated student growth norms for high-risk students.
- Average school-level growth for AEC.
- The results of rank percentile distributions of AEC school-level growth and the potential for use in Colorado AEC School Performance Frameworks in the
- future.

Target Audience: AEC School Principals, Teachers, Assessment and Curriculum Staff

Presenter(s): Dr. Jody Ernst, Vice President, Research and Policy Analytics,

Momentum Strategy and Research

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Deadline: Tuesday, February 7. Please register using a valid email address and the URL for the webinar will be sent to you before February 8.

PowerSchool: Report-Building Tools

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, February 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$100 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee.

Note: Please note that lunch is not provided but time is allotted and there are many options within walking distance.

Description: The three basic PowerSchool report-building tools (Form Letter, Report Card or Object Report) can be used to create unlimited customized forms such as labels, class lists, report cards, progress reports, certificates, enrollment forms, etc. This hands-on workshop will help you decide which tool is the best choice for various needs, and then walk you through the basic features and functions of each. Participants will create reports using each tool. (Please note: we will not cover ReportWorks in this workshop.)

What to Bring: Your computer, admin log-in account that allowed access to Report Setup on a PowerSchool server.

Audience: Geared toward those who create standardized forms and letters for their schools.

Trainer: Nyssa Strom, Student Information Coordinator, Victory Preparatory Academy

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, February 7. Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

Banning Lewis Ranch Academy Boots and Lace Barn Party

Hosted by the BLRA Foundation

Date: Friday, February 24

Time: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: Wedgewood at Black Forest, 12375 Black Forest Road, Colorado Springs

Cost: Friends of BLRA: \$75; Table Sponsors: \$1,500

Description: Banning Lewis Ranch Academy is celebrating 10 years of academic excellence. We hope that you will be apart of our special evening. Dinner, drinks (adult beverages), and dancing will be included in your ticket purchase. This event will be loaded with surprises for a very non-traditional evening of fundraising. The rustic barn themed evening will be held at the Wedgewood at Black Forest. The celebration will benefit the BLRA Foundation, proceeds going to the opening of Banning Lewis Preparatory in Fall of 2017.

Tickets: [Purchase here, limited space](#).

CIVA Charter High School 20th Anniversary Celebration & Silent Auction

Date: Thursday, March 9

Time: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: Stargazers Theater & Event Center, 10 Parkside Drive, Colorado Springs

Cost: \$20 per person | \$30 VIP

Description: Featuring musical performances by Austin Young Band, Roma Ransom and CIVA Ravens.

Registration: [Click here to purchase tickets](#).

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

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