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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



January 27, 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)

**Modular Classroom For Sale**

West Ridge Academy Charter School in Greeley is selling a modular classroom. It is 5 years old, in excellent condition and its features include: 1,792 square feet, two classrooms (no restroom), extra windows, higher ceilings, extra sound proofing, and built in cabinetry and shelving. It is selling for \$75,000. If interested, please contact Russ Spicer at [rspicer@wrak8.org](mailto:rspicer@wrak8.org) or 970-214-4001. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view photos.

**Space Foundation Discovery Center Field Trip Scholarships**

The Space Foundation Discovery Center, located in Colorado Springs, is the region's first and only space, science and technology attraction. A full complement of courses

are offered for PreK-12 students. These Discovery Center Field Trips utilize the Discovery Center's El Pomar Space Gallery, Lockheed Martin Space Education Center featuring the AGI Space Missions Simulation and Mars Robotics Laboratories, and the Northrop Grumman Science Center featuring Science On a Sphere® (SOS). The Scholarship Application deadline is 5:00 PM on Friday, February 3. [Click here to apply](#). The awarded field trips are conducted from February 20 - May 31. To learn more, please contact them at [SFDCReservations@SpaceFoundation.org](mailto:SFDCReservations@SpaceFoundation.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 [cocompton@district70.org](mailto:cocompton@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**

### Students, parents, teachers rally for school choice

*CBSDenver4 - January 26, 2017*

Students, parents and teachers gathered for a rally on Thursday to celebrate Colorado's diverse education options for School Choice Week. They rallied at the state Capitol to celebrate the different education opportunities that include public, private, online and home school.

### Hundreds gather at Capitol to promote school choice

*Colorado Community Media - January 26, 2017*

Erick Valencia, the communications coordinator at Platte River Academy, a charter school in Highlands Ranch, spoke to the crowd in both English and Spanish. "School choice is something I'm passionate about," Valencia said. "It's great to see so many people here who believe in the same thing."

### Colorado school choice advocates cheer classroom options

*The Denver Post - January 26, 2017*

But no one spoke more forcefully about the power of school choice than 10-year-old Jordan Smith, a fifth-grader at Golden View Classical Academy, a charter school emphasizing core knowledge including literature and mathematics. "We read and study

real and great books," Jordan said. "No one class is too easy or too hard."

[This Denver teacher avoids lectures and worksheets. He wants students to ask the big questions.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 25, 2017*

How do teachers captivate their students? Here, in a feature we call How I Teach, we ask great educators how they approach their jobs. You can see other pieces in this series [here](#).

[State legislators clash over the rights of charter schools](#)

*Colorado Springs Independent - January 25, 2017*

To state Sen. Owen Hill, the issue is simple. "We [should] treat all public school students equally within a district," the Colorado Springs Republican says.

[Advocates rally in Colorado Springs for more options in education during National School Choice Week](#)

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - January 24, 2017*

The time is now, education choice proponents proclaimed Tuesday, at Colorado Springs' first rally to mark National School Choice Week. "It's the future, regardless of how you feel about it," Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers said before speaking on the front steps of City Hall.

[Is the Bar Too Low for Special Education?](#)

*The Atlantic - January 24, 2017*

In fourth grade, Drew's behavioral problems in school grew worse. Grippled by extreme fears of flies, spills, and public restrooms, Drew began banging his head, removing his clothing, running out of the school building, and urinating on the floor.

[Colorado begins review of academic standards after years of avoiding Common Core controversy](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 24, 2017*

Colorado lawmakers are to be briefed Wednesday on how the state education department is conducting a review of the state's academic standards, which include the politically controversial Common Core.

[Senate committee passes bill for teacher gun training](#)

*Colorado Politics - January 24, 2017*

Legislation that allows training teachers to carry guns in Colorado advanced beyond its first step in the Colorado Senate Tuesday. Senate Bill 5 still faces long odds if it passes in the Republican-led Senate because it then goes to the Democrat-led House.

[New charter school in Academy School District 20 isn't dead yet](#)

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - January 23, 2017*

An idea whose "time has not yet come" in the minds of Academy School District 20 leadership who rejected an application from a proposed new charter school last month isn't dead yet.

[Jeffco will propose plan to close schools to save money](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 23, 2017*

Jeffco Public Schools is proposing school closures as part of a plan to save more than \$20 million after the November defeat of the district's two tax measures.

[House education committee greenlights increasing funding for kindergarten, banning](#)

corporal punishment

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 23, 2017*

The Colorado House Education Committee on Monday gave bipartisan blessing to two bills that would increase funding for kindergarten in the state's public schools and ban corporal punishment in schools and child care centers.

New Rules Will Stick

*The 74 - January 23, 2017*

The implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act just got fuzzier. The Trump administration late Friday delayed the implementation of all pending federal regulations, including the Obama administration's proposed ESSA accountability rules.

Colorado Springs will celebrate National School Choice Week Tuesday

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - January 22, 2017*

Every January during National School Choice Week, the city of Denver hosts a rally on the steps of the State Capitol to recognize and highlight educational choices. The 2017 observance will begin at 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Colorado Springs charter schools rise to the top amid mixed reviews

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - January 22, 2017*

A good reputation is as important to education as a good location is to real estate: it's necessary to chalk up sales.

Colorado education leaders sign petition asking Washington officials to protect undocumented youth

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 20, 2017*

Superintendents from Colorado's two largest school districts have signed a petition asking President Trump and Congress to extend temporary protections for young undocumented immigrants - some of them teachers.

## **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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North Star Academy Elementary Students Win Spanish Video Contest for 2nd Consecutive Year

North Star Academy - January 26, 2017

Students at North Star Academy (NSA), a free K-8, public charter school, are ringing in the New Year on a high note. As one of the school's differentiators, all students participate in Spanish classes on a daily basis, which are aligned with the state and national standards of foreign language learning, and their hard work is paying off.

Randall: Having a choice in education can make a huge difference

Greeley Tribune - January 25, 2017

This week is National School Choice Week, which means it's time to once again celebrate the power of educational choice. This week is a celebration of more than an interesting theory or idea.

Flagstaff Academy Middle School STEM Fair Hits a New High!

Flagstaff Academy Charter School - January 23, 2017

Over 65 projects competed for both the school-wide Middle School STEM Fair and for a coveted place in the Corden Pharma Regional Science Fair in March.

EDITORIAL: Support School Choice Week to help all kids

In one aspect of life, society has found a relatively affordable and efficient way to even playing fields between rich and poor. It's called school choice. States that facilitate charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, home schooling, vouchers and online curriculums have created free markets of competition that lower costs and improve outcomes.

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

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.

Family, School, and Community Partnering High Impact Strategies: Communicating and Designing Homework "Two-Way"

The Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit

Date: Monday, February 13 - Monday, February 27

Location: Online via Moodle

Cost: Various Credit Options: Adams State University (for a fee) or Continuing Education Hours (free of charge) or Auditing (free of charge)

Description: This course provides information, resources, and skills in developing effective reciprocal communication and homework practices, which can improve student achievement. Application to site or situation is a focus.

Target Audience: Preschool - Grade 12 General and Special Educators, Counselors, Related Service Providers, Higher Education Faculty

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, February 13

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, February 10.

2017 Colorado Core Knowledge Network Conference

Hosted by Swallows Charter Academy

Date: Friday, February 17

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Swallows Charter Academy, 278 S. McCulloch Blvd., Pueblo West

Cost: \$25 per person before December 2 /\$30 per person after December 2

Description: Make a plan to join us for a day of learning and networking!

- Presentations by teachers from across the state
- Round table sessions for teachers and administrators
- Networking opportunities to meet other teachers and administrators

Registration: [Click here](#) to download the event registration form, view the event flier, and learn more about this event. Space is limited to 450 attendees. Contact Dr. Cindy Compton with questions at ccompton@district70.org.

2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference Empowering Tomorrow's Superheroes

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates: Thursday, February 23 - Friday, February 24

Location: Omni Interlocken Resort, 500 Interlocken Boulevard, Broomfield

Description: 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.

After attending the Conference, you will feel:

- **Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound** thanks to knowledge from over 60 breakout sessions.
- **More powerful than a locomotive** with your new network of over 800 charter professionals and experts.
- **Faster than the speed of light** and ready to empower Tomorrow's Superheroes.

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

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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