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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



January 6, 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 Soon - 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. After attending the Conference, you will feel:

- Able to leap tall building 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.

Learn more and register at [www.COCharterConference.org](http://www.COCharterConference.org) **Early bird rates end January 13.**

**Free Advocacy Training Featuring National Education Advocate, [Derrell Bradford](#)**

To kick off this year's legislative session, the League is offering a training event to all interested charter school advocates on Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

It will take place at the Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver. Participants will walk away with a number of tools and techniques for effective charter school advocacy both within their community and at the state level. All charter school supporters - parents, teachers, administrators, board members, former students, etc. - with a passion for advancing the cause of high-quality schools for all Colorado children are strongly encouraged to attend. [Click here to learn more](#) or contact Dan Schaller, League Director of Governmental Affairs, at dschaller@coloradoleague.org with any questions.

### **Attend the 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 available! 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. Transportation funds are available.

## **News Articles**

### Mike Miles, former superintendent in Colorado and Dallas, opening charter school in northwest Aurora

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 4, 2017*

Former district superintendent Mike Miles, whose reforms in Dallas and Colorado Springs stirred controversy, is set to open a new charter school in Aurora this fall serving at-risk kids. The Academy of Advanced Learning will borrow strategies Miles has employed elsewhere, including keeping school doors open early and late to help ease families' child care burden, and differentiating pay for teachers based on their roles so the school can afford extra staff.

### PSAS info meeting

*Pueblo Chieftain - January 4, 2017*

Those interested in learning more about the new Pueblo School for the Arts and Sciences at Fulton Heights, opening in the fall, are encouraged to attend either a 6 p.m. Jan. 12 meeting at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library's first floor public meeting room or a 6 p.m. Jan. 13 meeting at the Fulton Heights Community Center.

### Open enrollment through January for Mountain Village Montessori Charter School

*Steamboat Today - January 4, 2017*

Open enrollment is taking place through January for families interested in attending Mountain Village Montessori Charter School, a tuition-free public school just west of Steamboat Springs. The preschool through fifth-grade school opened in fall 2016 and will add two classrooms and sixth grade to the campus this year.

### Two Colorado districts plan to ask state board to up their quality ratings to stave off sanctions

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 3, 2017*

Two low-performing Colorado school districts at different points on a path toward sanctions plan to appeal their state quality ratings to the State Board of Education.

### 5 Education Stories To Watch In 2017

*National Public Radio - January 3, 2017*

Every year for the past few years, I've dusted off my crystal ball and offered a few predictions for the new year. Back on Nov. 9 though, I threw out the ones I had been

working on and started over.

Education Commissioner Katy Anthes on Equity, ESSA and School Accountability  
*Westword - December 26, 2016*

Katy Anthes is known as a consensus builder and a steady hand. As Anthes begins her tenure as Colorado education commissioner, those traits will be put to the test. There are no shortage of divides over education policy, and the state has plenty on the agenda.

To hire and keep good teachers as housing costs rise, Colorado school districts take on new role: landlord

*Education News via Chalkbeat Colorado - December 23, 2016*

As Colorado's housing costs skyrocket, a growing number of school districts, local leaders and lawmakers are taking steps to make housing more affordable for teachers and staff.

Superintendent seeks to boost pay for rural teachers

*Elbert County News - December 22, 2016*

Elizabeth School District Superintendent Douglas Bissonette is on a mission to gain equality in teacher pay throughout Colorado.

Pueblo West Metro district, charter school partner up

*Pueblo Chieftain - December 22, 2016*

Set to open a second campus in Fulton Heights, Pueblo School for the Arts and Sciences next presence may be in Pueblo West. The school and the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board of Directors recently finalized an agreement in which the metro district will provide land for construction of a proposed school, to be chartered by Pueblo County School District 70.

Does Coaching Teachers In Real-Time Help Students Learn? Rocky Mountain Prep Says Yes

*Colorado Public Radio - December 22, 2016*

Many teachers burn a lot of time trying to control their classes. When Sara Carlson was a teacher and her classroom was getting a little chaotic, she wished she'd had a little message in her ear like the one she is about to give: "Narrate 3. Consequence 1."

Colorado's school funding debate raged on in 2016. Here's how.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 22, 2016*

School funding is the perennial school policy debate in Colorado. During elections and legislative sessions, year in and year out, the state grapples with decisions over how much money schools need and what they actually get.

SkyView Academy student turns down birthday presents

*Highlands Ranch Herald - December 19, 2016*

Most kids look forward to their birthday for several reasons: cake, a party and presents galore. But not Siena Negron.

## **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.**

People who say geography means rural areas can't share in Trump's school choice vision are wrong. Here's why

*Chalkbeat - January 5, 2017*

President-elect Donald Trump and his choice for secretary of education insist that private-school vouchers are a good idea. I strongly disagree. But there are examples across America that show how public school choice options can help rural students and families. Having worked with rural schools for 28 years, I know that geography isn't an insurmountable hurdle.

EDITORIAL: Washington Post editor champions school choice

*Colorado Springs Gazette - January 5, 2017*

"Millions of parents choose to send their children to parochial or other private schools. Millions more decide where to rent or buy a home based on the quality of the local public schools," Hiatt wrote under his byline. "The only people who do not enjoy this right are those who are too poor to move out of neighborhoods where public schools are failing. A disproportionate number of these are people of color."

Superintendent Dan McMinimee has served Jeffco schools well

*The Denver Post - December 27, 2016*

Jefferson County schools superintendent Dan McMinimee's fate was probably sealed on that November day a year ago when the three board members who hired him were decisively ousted in a recall election.

SkyView Academy 1st Graders Spread Cheer to Army Combat Veteran

*YourHub - December 19, 2016*

A class of SkyView Academy 1st graders joined in the spontaneous efforts to help an Army combat veteran in need.

## **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**

### **Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

#### **Dates/Times/Locations:**

Tuesday, January 10 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Date TBD (after January 10) | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

Wednesday, March 15 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$500 per person for both PD sessions and On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching; Non-Members: \$600 per person.

**Target Audience:** Teachers in years 1-3 of teaching, Interventionists who teach larger groups of students, and anyone who is looking to improve their instructional practices in the classroom.

**Description:** In this series of professional development sessions that includes an on-site observation and instructional coaching session, participants will engage in a variety of effective instructional strategies to practice and then implement in the classroom. Research states that instructional strategies need to be practiced over 20 times in order to become an automatic part of instruction practice. This takes opportunities for practice, feedback and mentorship, planning and development of teaching routines, on-going support, and a risk taking learning environment that supports teachers with a growth mindset.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, January 9.

**\*\*Note:** Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one.\*\*

### **Charter Communicators Network Meeting**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, January 12

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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

**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.

**Topic:** Telling Your School's Story

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 10.

### **Bilingual Legal Night**

*Hosted by the Ricardo Flores Magón Academy in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), Castaneda Law and MSU Family Literacy, and Regis University*

**Date:** Thursday, January 12

**Time:** 4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

**Location:** Magon Academy, 5301 Lowell Blvd., Denver

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

**Note:** Childcare, snacks and parking provided

**Description:** During this event, legal experts will discuss deportation defense and family-based decisions, DACA, DAPA and Immigration Relief as well as how you can support undocumented members of the community. The panel will answer questions including how to support those struggling in the new political climate and what sister organizations can support the community.

[Click here for the flyer.](#)

### **Advocacy Training**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Saturday, January 14

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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

**Cost:** Free

**Note:** Light breakfast, snacks and beverages will be provided.

**Description:** Learn how to effectively speak up for charter public school students! Participants will walk away with a number of tools and techniques for effective charter school advocacy both within their community and at the state level. All charter school supporters - parents, teachers, administrators, board members, former students, etc. - with a passion for advancing the cause of high-quality schools for all Colorado children are strongly encouraged to attend.

Can't make the drive to Denver? Remote access will be available. To sign-up or learn more, please contact Dan Schaller, League Director of Governmental Affairs.

**Featured Presenter** - Derrell Bradford

The League is excited to have Derrell Bradford, Executive Vice President of 50CAN and the Executive Director of NYCAN, joining us as a presenter for this training. 50CAN is the 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now, a nonprofit organization that works at the local level to advocate for a high-quality education for all kids, regardless of their address. [Click here to learn more about Derrell Bradford.](#)

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, January 11.

### **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](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org) as soon as possible.

### **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.

### **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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