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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



October 14, 2016

Welcome to another edition of the Friday Wire.

Let us know if your school is in the news! Please send any articles or announcements to [Kerri Barclay](#), Communications Associate at the League.

Articles and announcements are due by noon on Thursday of each week.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Seeking Superhero Presenters for the 2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference**

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is seeking "Superhero" presenters for the 2017 [Colorado Charter Schools Conference](#) scheduled for February 23-24, 2017 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. We are looking for breakout session presenters who will make Conference attendees feel:

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

[Click here](#) for more information and to submit your proposal.  
Call for Presentations closes Friday, November 18 at 5:00 PM.

**Kids Link Colorado - Affordable High-Speed Internet for Schools & Libraries**

Last month, Governor John Hickenlooper announced the Kids Link Colorado initiative to bring affordable high-speed internet to schools and libraries across Colorado. [Click here to learn more](#). Kathy Anthes, Colorado Interim Commissioner of Education, outlines the CDE's support in this effort [here](#). For more information, please contact Brian Shepherd at [brian.shepherd@state.co.us](mailto:brian.shepherd@state.co.us).

### **EF Global Citizen Scholarship Applications - Due November 7**

EF Education First wants to hear about the worldwide food issues your students find most important-like extreme hunger or food waste-and their ideas to solve them. Give your high school students an international education opportunity by encouraging them to [apply](#) to become an EF Global Citizen. By sharing their thoughts with us by November 7, they'll be eligible to travel for free on a Global Leadership Summit tour to Europe in July 2017 and hear keynote speaker Anthony Bourdain. Email Jenni Williams at [jenni.williams@ef.com](mailto:jenni.williams@ef.com) or text/call at 720-361-3334.

### **Student Desks For Sale**

Hertz Furniture, a League Trusted Partner, has 360 new desks available for sale. [Click here](#) to view. Ordered by a charter school in Colorado, the desks were shipped with a slight error in the finish. The school that originally ordered the desks will receive replacements but in the interim will use them. They will be available mid-November and can be sold separately to multiple schools. The cost of the original desks was \$128 but they will now be sold for \$65. If interested, please contact Shane Ronay at [shane@hertzfurniture.com](mailto:shane@hertzfurniture.com).

## **News Articles**

[Recruiting teachers to rural Colorado: Smaller classrooms and more freedom, but about that salary ...](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 13, 2016*

Shaundra Johns grew up in Aurora and worked for 11 years in metro Denver, but long imagined herself teaching in a rural community. She wanted the family feeling of a small town, the flexibility of a school district with less bureaucracy, and someday to own a goat.

[Looking For Funding, Colorado Schools Hope To Cash In On A Presidential Election](#)

*Colorado Public Radio - October 12, 2016*

When Colorado voters get their mail-in ballots for November, chances are they'll find one or two different asks from schools looking for money. Either a bond initiative to pay for buildings and repairs or a mill levy override to raise local property taxes to pay for programs, materials and teacher salaries.

[Colorado won't bolt from PARCC just yet, state board chairman says](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 12, 2016*

The chairman of the State Board of Education said Wednesday that Colorado is likely to stick with its current math and English tests for at least the next two school years, after earlier suggesting that the state consider moving in another direction immediately.

[Colorado schools ban clown costumes for Halloween](#)

*The Denver Post - October 12, 2016*

Colorado public school students who plan on dressing as clowns for Halloween should think again this year. After weeks of online threats of violence to schools statewide, some school districts are banning clown costumes to preemptively avoid

hysteria.

Vanguard School students volunteer to clean area neighborhood

*Cheyenne Edition - October 12, 2016*

"Sweeping" sounds similar to what many high school students would normally be doing early on a Saturday morning.

Here are the Colorado schools and districts most likely to face state intervention for poor performance

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 11, 2016*

As many as five Colorado school districts and a dozen schools could face state intervention next year for persistent low performance on state tests.

How healthy are Colorado schools? New survey provides some answers.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 7, 2016*

How many minutes do Colorado elementary students get for lunch? How many schools take away recess when students misbehave? Are there nurses at every school?

Denver Public Schools asks voters to approve largest-ever \$572 million bond

*The Denver Post - October 7, 2016*

A \$572 million bond measure on the November ballot - the largest ever for Denver Public Schools - would fund a new elementary and middle school in northeast Denver, expand a high school and add air conditioning in several schools.

## 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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Keys to Charter School Success

U.S. News - October 6, 2016

It's been 25 years since the first charter school law was enacted in Minnesota in 1991. What was once an experiment in school choice is now a pillar of American public education.

EDITORIAL: Designing a Different School Culture, Part One

Pagosa Daily Post - October 13, 2016

The Archuleta School District has scheduled a community meeting on Monday, October 24, at the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, to introduce a proposed charter school - the Pagosa Peak Open School - which the district has been asked to authorize. Like conventional public schools, Colorado charter schools are tuition-free and publicly funded. But they are intended, under state law, to be innovative.

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

It's a Groundbreaking Moment at The Vanguard School

Hosted by The Vanguard School

Date: Tuesday, October 18

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: The Vanguard School, 1605 S. Corona Avenue, Colorado Springs

Cost: Free

Description: Please join The Vanguard School on Tuesday, October 18 at 4:00 P.M. for the groundbreaking ceremony of their new junior high building. There will be a reception on the East Patio at 4:15 P.M.

Registration: [Click here for more information.](#)

Rachel's Challenge Parent Community Event

Hosted by World Compass Academy

Date: Thursday, October 20

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: World Compass Academy, 2490 S. Perry Street, Castle Rock

Cost: Free

Recommended Audience: Parents and Students Grades 7 and Up

Description: While her life was tragically cut short during the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999, Rachel Joy Scott's shining example of kindness and compassion was not defeated that day. Come hear the inspiring story of one girl's dream being fulfilled over a decade after her death. The presentation is a powerful reminder of the little things we can do every day to make our world a better place.

Registration: [Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

Tech Trek 5K & Fall Fest

Hosted by Lincoln Academy Charter School

Date: Saturday, October 22

Time: 9:00 AM Race Start | 10:00 AM Fall Fest

Location: Lincoln Academy Charter School, 7180 Oak Street, Arvada

Cost: \$25 student; \$35 adult - includes race, t-shirt, and Fall Fest

Description: Friends! Neighbors! Community members! Young and old! Runners and walkers! Anyone who loves a good time! Grab your geekiest costume and join us for a 5K run and community Fall Fest to benefit the science and technology programs at Lincoln Academy. Participants will enjoy a 5K race, a dash for the kids, and a post race Fall Fest that celebrates the season with food, activities and lots of fun. Awards will be presented in numerous categories, including overall and age group, as well as awards for best techie/geek/nerd costumes. Many of our nation's students with the highest potential never realize their dream of entering science or technology professions because they lack the educational resources and guidance they need to succeed. Some of these students could become the scientists, engineers, inventors, or great leaders of the future. We are inviting you to join forces with the teachers, staff and families of Lincoln Academy to help equip our elementary and middle school students to someday make a positive impact in our community through the worlds of science and

technology.

Registration: [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Meet and Greet for New Charter School Leaders

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, October 26

Time: 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM (light breakfast and coffee) OR 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (light snacks and beverages)

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools, 3rd floor patio, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver

Cost: Free

Description: The Colorado League of Charter Schools is hosting two Meet and Greet sessions for new charter school leaders. This event is intended to provide a time and place for new charter school leaders and existing charter school leaders to meet one another, network and speak to the League's School Quality and Support team about offerings that support school wide initiatives and events. Please attend the time frame that works best for you and dress accordingly since we will be meeting outdoors.

Registration: [Click to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, October 24.

Please contact Nicole Grzybowski at ngrzybowski@coloradoleague.org or 303-989-5356, ext. 107 to learn more.

Working in Your UIP (Denver/Metro)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, October 27

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$50 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee;

Non-Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

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

Description: Come spend the day working in your UIP with League support and collaborate with your peers so that you may leave this workshop with some sections completed! We will go through each component of the UIP (Data Narrative, Root Cause, Target Setting and Action Planning) and review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc), timelines and what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17. You will also leave with numerous tools and resources that will help you complete your plan and guide you through setting targets/goals during the recent assessment transition.

Note: This session is designed for people who are familiar with the UIP and have written a UIP before. If you are new to the UIP, please register for that session on November 9.

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

Students of Color Reception

Hosted by University of Denver Morgridge College of Education

Date: Thursday, October 27

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: University of Denver, Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall Commons, 1999 E. Evans Avenue, Denver

Cost: Free

Description: The Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver is holding an event on Thursday, October 27 for prospective graduate students who might be interested in pursuing a graduate certificate, master's degree or doctoral degree in one of our ten programs. The Students of Color event is open to anyone who is interested in learning about our community, accessibility of academic programs, services, and

financial aid availability.

Registration: [Click here](#) to view the invitation.

Board Fundamentals Workshop

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

Date: Friday, October 28

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver (Remote/Online Access Also Available)

Cost: \$35 per person

Workshop Presenter: Nora E. Flood, President, Colorado League of Charter Schools

Description: This workshop supports charter public school board members by providing a sound introduction to board practice and responsibilities, a refresher to continuing board members in board leadership roles, and an introduction to general charter school governing board practices and responsibilities for charter school leaders. Charter school board members and school leaders are encouraged to attend.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 26.

Lotus School for Excellence Fall Festival

Date: Saturday, October 29

Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Description: There will be activities for kids of all ages with painting pumpkins, bobbing for apples, carnival games and more! Lotus School for Excellence (LSE) is celebrating its 10 years of excellence. Founded in 2006, Lotus School's mission was to equip students interested in science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.) for professional fields after graduation. Now in the 11th year, LSE's focus is on S.T.E.A.M. education and college-readiness that proudly supports 100% college acceptance for graduates. LSE has grown from 140 students to now over 875 students!

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes

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/Locations:

Tuesday, November 1 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver

Monday, January 9 through Thursday, January 12 | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

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

- Novice Teachers 101 (Tuesday, November 1)
- Novice Teachers 102: On-Site Observation and Feedback Sessions (Monday, January 9 - Thursday, January 12)
- Novice Teachers 103 (Wednesday, March 15)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, October 28.

Implementing Effective Data Teams

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:

- Thursday, November 3 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver
- Friday, January 13 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver
- Tuesday, March 14 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: \$350 per person for all three sessions. | Non-Members: \$450 per person for all three sessions | \$200 for each additional attendee.

Target Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will create a Professional Development product called the "Data Team Action Research Plan". Participants will be asked to gather formative and summative assessment data to bring to each PD session, set goals that drive the data team, analyze student work samples, engage in learning intervention based instructional strategies, and participate in a lesson vs. assessment study.

Registration: [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Deadline: Monday, October 31.

Working in Your UIP (Western Slope)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, November 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$50 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

Location: Western Colorado Community College, 2508 Blichmann Avenue, Grand Junction

Description: Come spend the day working in your UIP with League support and collaborate with your peers so that you may leave this workshop with some sections completed! We will go through each component of the UIP (Data Narrative, Root Cause, Target Setting and Action Planning) and review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc), timelines and what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17. You will also leave with numerous tools and resources that will help you complete your plan and guide you through setting targets/goals during the recent assessment transition.

What to Bring: Laptops, 2015-16 SPF documents, username and password to UIP online system, last year's UIP, interim and formative data

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** October 27, 2016. Event is contingent

on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Writing SMART Goals for Colorado's Accountability System (Western Slope)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, November 4

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional work time from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Cost: League Members: \$50 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee;
Non-Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

Location: Western Colorado Community College, 2508 Blichmann Avenue, Grand Junction

Description: The focus of this session will be to establish realistic, yet challenging targets that are aligned to your new PARCC data and increasing your awareness of tools you have access to. We will also look at tools you can use to set targets for some of your local data (including K-3 data, DIBELS, STAR, NWEA-MAP, etc) to inform decision making and begin the Action Planning process. The goal will be to develop a plan that is focused, thorough, and measurable in order to produce a document that can be used to monitor progress.

If needed, we will review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you. Time will NOT be given to work in the UIP (unless you stay for office hours or attend a UIP workshop).

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, October 27.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Lunch & Learn: Increase Your College Student Stats with these Pros

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, November 4

Time: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Cost: Free

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

Description: Get your students successfully into college with the power of these 3 innovative tools:

- Story2College: Help students conquer college admission essays all in one place.
- Brigdit2College: Move students from acceptance to enrollment with this interactive roadmap.
- Mountain Financial: Show students how to afford/pay for the college of their choice.

Join us for lunch and live presentations and demos from each of these providers.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, November 2.

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

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