

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Colorado League of Charter Schools. Don't forget to add info@coloradoleague.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



October 21, 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.

~~~~~

**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.

**Register Today For Board Fundamentals Workshop - October 28**

The Board Fundamentals Workshop will be presented by the President of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, Nora E. Flood. 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. Can't Drive to Denver? Attend Remotely! Remote (online) access will be available for this workshop! If you would like to join via webinar remotely, please select "Remote Access," when registering. A link to join the workshop remotely will be sent to you via email prior to the event. [Click here to register](#). Please contact Joni Malli at [jmalli@coloradoleague.org](mailto:jmalli@coloradoleague.org) or 303-989-5356, ext. 115 to learn more.

### **Colorado Department of Education's Academic Standards Survey**

CDE invites educators, educational leaders, parents, students and the general public to share their perceptions of the Colorado Academic Standards through an online survey available through November. 13. [Click here to participate](#). The results of the survey will inform CDE's planning for the upcoming review and revision of the standards, required by Senate Bill 08-212, known as Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K). The law requires a review and revision of the Colorado Academic Standards on or before July 1, 2018 and every six years thereafter. [Click here for the survey](#) and online standards feedback system. If you have questions and comments about the review and revision process, please contact them at [standardsreview2018@cde.state.co.us](mailto:standardsreview2018@cde.state.co.us).

### **School Energy Saving Opportunity through the Colorado Energy Office**

According to the U.S. EPA, K-12 schools waste, on average, 30 percent of energy as a result of inefficient buildings or operations. This translates to higher energy bills for schools that already have limited resources. The [Energy Savings for Schools](#) is designed to help rural and low-income schools combat the utility drain on their budgets. There are currently 18 spaces available. [Click here for the ESS Flyer 2016](#) and [ESS Application](#). For more information, contact Michael Turner, CEO Energy Efficiency Programs Manager at [michael.a.turner@state.co.us](mailto:michael.a.turner@state.co.us).

## **News Articles**

[From outrage to indifference, charter school educators respond to the NAACP's call to limit their schools](#)

*Chalkbeat - October 20, 2016*

During that conversation, Shabazz said, his teachers expressed confusion. They could not understand why, after working to help educate so many students of color, they were being admonished by the NAACP, he said.

[Colorado schools saw big budget cuts after the Great Recession. But other states had it worse.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 20, 2016*

Colorado schools weathered the Great Recession better than most other states, a new report finds. These two graphics from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan think tank based in Washington, tell the story. First, 28 other states including Nevada, Texas and - especially - Arizona, cut more per student in the years following the Great Recession than Colorado.

[Denver Public Schools lowering the bar on school rating measure in response to concerns](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 20, 2016*

Denver Public Schools is making a last-minute change to how it calculates its color-coded school ratings for this academic year by lowering the bar on one key measure.

The school districts with the best-paid teachers in Colorado (and why it matters)

*Denver Business Journal - October 20, 2016*

Kerrie Dallman, president of the Colorado Education Association - a public sector labor union that advocates for public funding - said Colorado's low overall compensation for K-12 school teachers relative to national averages is steering the state into a potential crisis.

Program makes tougher high school classes cool at 5 Colorado Springs-area schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 19, 2016*

Advanced Placement courses are getting even cooler at five Pikes Peak region high schools. Atlas Preparatory School in Harrison District 2, Coronado and Doherty high schools in Colorado Springs District 11, Ellicott High School in Ellicott District 22, and Falcon High School in Falcon District 49 won Colorado Legacy Schools grants to beef up those harder classes and make them appealing to students.

Colorado civics teachers tackle tough presidential campaign, rhetoric

*The Denver Post - October 19, 2016*

The heated presidential election campaign is increasing tension in high school classrooms across Colorado, where students are asking civic teachers a simple question they can't ethically answer: Whom do you support?

District 9-R requests \$1.7 million mill levy override

*The Durango Herald - October 18, 2016*

At the end of a long ballot for the Nov. 8 election, voters residing within Durango School District 9-R's boundaries will be asked to approve a tax increase for the district.

No room: PSD schools filled beyond capacity

*Fort Collins Coloradoan - October 18, 2016*

Bailee and Karsyn Smith spend about two hours each day getting to and from a school that is bursting at the seams.

Colorado's on-time graduation rate among lowest in the country for high school students

*Rocky Mountain PBS News - October 18, 2016*

Colorado's high school graduation rate ranks as the seventh lowest in the country, according to data released Monday.

High school graduation rate hits record high of 83.2 percent

*The Denver Post via the AP - October 17, 2016*

The nation's high school graduation rate has reached a record 83.2 percent, continuing a steady increase that shows improvement across all racial and ethnic groups, according to federal data released Monday.

New Colorado Springs junior high will have unique look

*Colorado Springs Gazette - October 16, 2016*

The first of its kind in trendy school building design is coming to Colorado Springs. The Vanguard School will break ground Tuesday on a monolithic dome-shaped junior high for 300 seventh- and eighth-graders.

St. Vrain Valley asking voters for \$260 million bond issue

*Boulder Daily Camera - October 15, 2016*

The oldest part of Mead Elementary is the gym, built in 1930. The newest is a 1999 classroom addition, with three other parts of the building added on between 1962 and 1991.

Opt-out aftershock: Colorado school ratings called into question for low participation on tests

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 14, 2016*

The large number of students who skipped this spring's state standardized tests is throwing a wrench into the high-stakes process of determining the quality of Colorado's schools.

Report: Colorado Teacher Salaries Down 20 Percent Since 1992

*Colorado Public Radio - October 14, 2016*

Average Colorado teacher salaries are down 20 percent since 1992, compared to a 3 percent drop nationally, according to federal and state statistics compiled by the Colorado School Finance Project.

Second campus for Pueblo School for Arts & Sciences OK'd

*The Pueblo Chieftain - October 13, 2016*

With a waiting list of more than 300 students, the charter institution Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences saw its application to establish a second campus approved by the board of education of Pueblo City Schools (D60).

## **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.***

~~~~~

When you're in charge of testing in a Colorado school district and your daughter wants to opt out

Chalkbeat Colorado - October 19, 2016

As an assessment director, my primary responsibility is to assure that state testing goes off without a hitch in 60 schools for over 28,000 students. However, I work in a broken system. The state assessment system in the United States is broken because leaders from every quadrant have failed to ask the most important questions, or if they have, they have failed to listen to the answers.

Lotus School for Excellence Hosts Math Matters Competition on November 12

Lotus School for Excellence - October 19, 2016

Lotus School for Excellence (LSE), a K-12 Charter Public School is hosting the annual Math Matters Competition in Colorado on November 12, 2016. The competition will be held at 10:00 AM at Lotus School for Excellence located at 11001 East Alameda Avenue in Aurora, Colorado.

Lotus School for Excellence Hosts Family-Friendly Fall Festival

Lotus School for Excellence - October 18, 2016

Lotus School for Excellence (LSE), a K-12 Charter Public School is hosting a community

and family-friendly Fall Festival on October 29, 2016 to celebrate the new season and its 10-year anniversary.

[Skyview Academy High School Students Spent a Day Learning Outside the Classroom Serving the Community](#)

Skyview Academy - October 18, 2016

Giving back to the community is so important to SkyView Academy (SVA) that service is embedded in the school's mission statement, and is considered one of the "five pillars" which make this preschool-12th-grade tuition-free public charter school unique.

[Renaissance Secondary School Breaks Ground and Opens Enrollment](#)

Renaissance Secondary School - October 18, 2016

Renaissance Secondary will be no ordinary school, and the facility is no exception. At the groundbreaking ceremony on September 28, architect Peter Ewers shared his infectious enthusiasm about how the design will compliment the school's unique culture and commitment to sustainability.

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

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.

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.

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

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Colorado Literacy Symposium

Hosted by McGraw Hill Education

Date: Thursday, November 3

Time: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Cost: Free

Location: Courtyard Marriott Denver Cherry Creek, 1475 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver

Description: Join us for a day of learning:

7:30-8:30: Breakfast

8:30-11:30: National Literacy Expert, Dr. Timothy Shanahan speaks on Text Complexity

11:30-12:30: Lunch

12:30-3:30: Open Court/Imagine It Users Group

Come for the afternoon or the full day. The choice is yours!

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

Please contact Katie Schrameyer, Colorado McGraw Hill Literacy Specialist, with questions at 303-956-7064 or kasmcgrawhill@gmail.com.

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.

Introduction to the UIP

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, November 9

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional office hours from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

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

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

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

Note: Lunch will not be provided, but light refreshments will be available.

Description: Come to this session if you are new to the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). We will give an overview of the UIP, walk through the timeline, template, and how to access the information you need to complete yours.

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 (see UIP workshops).

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, November 7.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 registrants.

"Fostering a Child's Full Potential in a Screen-Filled World" with Diana Graber

Hosted by Mountain Phoenix Community School

Date: Wednesday, November 9

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Mountain Phoenix Community School Great Hall, 4725 Miller St., Wheat Ridge

Cost: Suggested donation: \$5

Description: Join Diana Graber, co-founder of Cyberwise and founder of Cyber Civics for "Fostering a Child's Full Potential in a Screen-Filled World." This engaging presentation will cover the following:

- What skills do kids need most to thrive today, both online and off? Surprisingly, experts agree that the most important digital skills are not technical skills, but social and behavioral skills. Find out how schools guided by the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education already expertly teach these skills.
- See an overview of how media affects kids at all ages and stages, from birth through 18 years of age. We'll take a look at the latest research, current guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and more.
- Instead of saying "no tech, think "slow tech"! Learn about the "Slow Tech Media Diet" instituted at Journey School. Receive guidelines on developmentally-appropriate integration of technology for children.
- Learn how Cyber Civics helps schools extend what they are already teaching (social and behavioral skills) into the digital world. Learn about the three-year program that helps students become ethical, thoughtful, and competent digital citizens.
- Participate in hands-on Cyber Civics lessons. Learn how parents can be involved in this program too.

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

Writing SMART Goals for Colorado's Accountability System

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, November 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional office hours from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

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

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

Note: Lunch will not be provided, but light refreshments will be available.

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. We will also 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 (see UIP workshops).

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, November 7.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 registrants.

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

~~~~~

**Visit us online at:** <http://www.coloradoleague.org>

**Find Us on Facebook**

[Click here](#) to like us on Facebook.

**Follow Us on Twitter**

[Click here](#) to follow us on Twitter.

Colorado League of Charter Schools, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,  
Suite 250, Denver, CO 80222

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [srader@coloradoleague.org](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today