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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



October 28, 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.

**Calling All Charter High School Teachers and Counselors**

Register today for *Lunch & Learn: Increase Your College Student Stats with these Pros* hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools. This free event (lunch included) will introduce three innovative tools to help guide your students successfully through the college application process. Live presentations and demos will take place from each provider. This workshop is Friday, November 4 from 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM at the Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### **School Furniture Available**

Frontier Academy in Greeley is donating 75 desk and chair combinations in good condition. [Click here to view photo.](#) Please contact Tom Mothershed at mothershedt@frontieracademy if interested.

### **Jared Polis Foundation's Fall 2016 Technology Mini Grants**

Are your teachers dreaming of Chromebooks, iPads, Interactive Whiteboards or other technology to enhance their classroom? If so, encourage them to apply for a Technology Mini Grant from the Jared Polis Foundation! All Colorado PreK-12 public school teachers can submit an application requesting up to \$1,500 of technology needs for their classrooms. On average, the foundation awards \$25,000 per cycle (spring and fall each year) to meet teacher needs. [Click here to apply.](#) The deadline is Monday, November 7.

### **Nominate a Transformative School Principal for The Ryan Award**

The Ryan Award is the first national award honoring transformational school principals in the United States. Awardees are principals of urban schools who have demonstrated accelerated results in underserved schools over a minimum of four years and serve a sizeable percentage of urban, low-income, and minority students. The Awardees will each receive a \$25,000 honorarium and be featured as a special guest lecturer for The Ryan Fellows in the summer program of the Accelerate Institute at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. [Click here to nominate a principal.](#)

## **News Articles**

[John Legend pens a passionate essay in response to the NAACP's recent moratorium on charter public schools](#)

*Essence - October 27, 2016*

What's shortsighted about the NAACP's decision is that it's ignoring the many successful charter schools that are delivering results for many communities. In New York City, third grade charter school students outscored students at district schools in math and in English. Charters here are closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged Black students and their more affluent white peers. The NAACP understands that where you live, your skin color, your income level and zip code shouldn't determine what kind of education you can get in this country but unfortunately, in far too many places, it does.

[Colorado school districts stung by past defeats return with record number of tax requests](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 27, 2016*

A record 44 Colorado school districts are on the ballot this year asking voters to approve a whopping \$4.4 billion in tax measures - many of them returning to the polls hoping to reverse their fortunes after previous disappointments.

[Pueblo City Schools \(D60\) celebrates its school leaders](#)

Pueblo Chieftain - October 26, 2016

With Pueblo City Schools (D60) now off the state's accountability clock after seeing its accreditation rating move from priority improvement to improvement, the board took time during Tuesday's regular meeting to recognize individual school leaders instrumental in this progression.

Groundbreaking: Vanguard School launches junior high plan

*Cheyenne Edition - October 26, 2016*

The Vanguard School held a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 18 to launch construction of a spacious, energy efficient and state-of-the-art junior high school facility off South Corona Avenue.

Education secretary disagrees with NAACP's charter school stance

*Watchdog.org - October 26, 2016*

U.S. Education Secretary John King says arbitrary caps on high-quality charter schools are a mistake.

Meet Lamont Browne, the man overseeing Aurora Public Schools' boldest reforms yet

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 25, 2016*

Looking for a leader that wasn't far removed from leading a school himself, Aurora officials turned to Lamont Browne to take over their latest attempt at reforms.

Teachers use nasty election to spark polite student debate

*Aurora Sentinel via AP - October 25, 2016*

From mock elections to writing projects and Electoral College math, many teachers around the country are embracing the often nasty presidential race between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as a real-world teaching tool.

Working together to stop bullying

*9News - October 25, 2016*

Stand up for yourself and others, make a friend and pay it forward.

Denver superintendent Tom Boasberg's vision for giving more power to schools, annotated

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 24, 2016*

Denver Public Schools, the largest school district in Colorado, is striving to be more decentralized and less top-down.

Renaissance Secondary School breaks ground and opens enrollment

*Your Hub - October 21, 2016*

Renaissance Secondary School is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year for students entering grades 7-10. Renaissance Secondary will be no ordinary school, and the facility is no exception.

Scheffel, McClellan, vying for seat on State Board of Education, share where they stand on the issues

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 21, 2016*

Partisan control of the State Board of Education is in play this November. And the race to represent the 6th Congressional District on the board is the main event.

Alyssa Whitehead-Bust, former top Denver schools administrator, launches new consulting firm

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 21, 2016*

A former top Denver Public Schools administrator who left the district earlier this year is teaming up with the former CEO of an East Coast charter school network to start a consulting firm.

Teen suicide is contagious, and the problem may be worse than we thought  
*Newsweek - October 19, 2016*

As of mid-October, the total for teen suicides this year in El Paso County, home to Colorado Springs, is 13, one short of the total for all of 2015. Neighboring Douglas County had a similar crisis a few years ago, and news of a classmate's suicide no longer fazes students in the area, kids say.

## 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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CIVA - Keeping Dancers on Their Toes

CIVA Charter School - October 27, 2016

Currently, CIVA is partnering with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic by holding the Philharmonic's "Nutcracker" rehearsals at the CIVA campus.

Editorial: Work needed on Colorado's graduation rate

Reporter-Herald - October 25, 2016

To great fanfare, the Obama administration announced recently that the U.S. graduation rate has reached an all-time high.

First Person: What the shift to restorative justice looked like in my KIPP school

Chalkbeat National - October 24, 2016

It was the kind of call no educator ever wants to get, especially in the middle of a winter holiday: A maintenance staffer reporting messages of hate scrawled everywhere, threatening the principal, me, by name.

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

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 three 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.

Writing SMART Goals for Colorado's Accountability System (Colorado Springs)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, November 14

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

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

Location: James Irwin Charter Schools, 5525 Astrozon Blvd., Colorado Springs

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:** Wednesday, November 9.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan (Webinar 3 of 5)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, November 15

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: Free

Description: The Safe Schools Act for Colorado can be read in C.R.S. 22-32-109.1: <http://schoolsafetysummit.org/safe-schools/>. The Act requires all schools, including charter public schools, to adopt and implement a safe school plan. This School Safety Plan webinar series focuses on subsection (4) of the Act and will lead each participating charter public school through a step-by-step process to build and complete their school-specific plan by June 30, 2017. This webinar series (5 webinars) will help schools establish a school response framework consisting of policies described in subsection (4) of the Act. By satisfying the requirements of subsection (4), a school shall be in compliance with the national incident management system, referred to in this subsection (4) as "NIMS", developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, November 14. Please register using a valid email address and the URL will be sent to you before November 15.

Business Manager Network Meeting

In Conjunction with Tech Talk Quarterly

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

Date: Friday, November 18

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

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:** Wednesday, November 16.

Tech Talk Quarterly

In Conjunction with Business Manager Network Meeting

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, November 18

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

Cost: School Registrants: \$25 per person

Audience: IT Managers, Administrators, Business Managers

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:** Wednesday, November 16.

Vendors: Email tkallevik@coloradoleague.org for registration instructions.

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

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