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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



October 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 Manager at the League. Articles and announcements are due by noon on Thursday of each week.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Save The Date - 2018 Colorado Charter Schools Conference**

Registration will open next week.



### **BEST Grant Announcement For FY18-19**

Is your charter school interested in applying for BEST Grant Funding in FY18-19? The first deadline is December 1. [Click here](#) to view our website to see what is required. The BEST Grant provides annual funding in the form of competitive grants for schools with health and safety facility needs. The grant is available to school districts, charter schools and institute charter schools, BOCES, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Schools are encouraged to contact the Division as early as possible even if they are not certain they will apply. The Division provides technical assistance and can help guide schools through the process, so don't wait! You may contact us directly by emailing Anna Fitzer at [Fitzer\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Fitzer_a@cde.state.co.us).

### **School Bus For Sale**

A school bus in Cripple Creek is for sale. It's a 1999 Navistar International school bus that seats 47 passengers. Other details include: possesses 142,868 miles, V8 Diesel (444E), and the annual inspection is done for the 2017-2018 school year. Sealed Bids accepted and minimum bid must exceed \$3500. Bids must be received by October 15 and sent to: Cripple Creek-Victor School, Attn: Elaine Hayden, Business Director, PO 897, Cripple Creek, CO 80813. Please contact Peter "Doc" DeKowzan at 719-689-2781 to learn more.

### **Free Middle School Desks**

Highline Academy in Denver has 32 desks (in great condition) for middle school students. These desks are not height adjustable, but do have a slim profile. The top of each desk is a wood laminate and the legs are chrome. [Click here to view photo](#). Please contact Heather Knight at [hknight@highlineacademy.org](mailto:hknight@highlineacademy.org), if interested.

### **Fall Book Sale**

The Jefferson County Library Foundation is hosting their annual fall book sale on October 27 - 29. On Saturday, October 28 all books are half price for teachers and educators with ID. The children's books are priced at \$1 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks, so on half-price day they are quite the deal! The book sale will take place at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave. Frontage Road, Golden. [Click here to learn more](#). Contact Kirstin Kraig at [Kirstin.Kraig@jeffcolibrary.org](mailto:Kirstin.Kraig@jeffcolibrary.org) with questions.

### **The Green Schools Summit**

Don't miss this year's Green Schools Summit on November 2 and November 3! The Green Schools Summit is Colorado's only conference dedicated to convening green building industry professionals, school decision makers, educators and parents to further advance healthy, safe and sustainable schools statewide. The annual education and networking event, hosted by USGBC Colorado and organized in partnership with

volunteers from the Green Schools Initiative, provides a unique opportunity to discuss how we can to create better learning environments for students. This year's Summit theme is "Making Green Schools Add Up" and programming will focus on resource efficiency in schools. Early bird pricing ends September 22. [Click here to register.](#)

## News Articles

### [High school teaches students real hurricane lessons](#)

*9News - October 4, 2017*

Within the classrooms of Colorado High School Charter's Osage Campus, students like Alayah Franklin are learning about hurricanes in a variety of classes.

### [Denver, Boulder schools home to the state's largest achievement gaps based on race, new data shows](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 4, 2017*

Since Colorado introduced new, more challenging state math and English tests in 2015, schools and families have seen a steady - and often slow - trickle of results.

### [These four Colorado schools won the inaugural Succeeds Prize for their innovation and academic achievement](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 4, 2017*

Four Colorado schools won recognition Tuesday at the inaugural Succeeds Prize for their innovation and academic track records.

### [Student absences are about to have higher stakes in most states. Will cheating follow?](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 3, 2017*

Schools across the country are about to be held accountable for student attendance - attaching stakes to a measure that previously had much less significance and increasing the risk that schools will try to manipulate that data.

### [Security measures at Aurora schools are supposed to protect kids, but are they scaring away some of their parents?](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 3, 2017*

An additional layer of security screening in Aurora schools has raised concerns about whether a system meant to keep kids safe may be keeping away parents and other family members who are not in the country legally.

### [Nearly \\$100,000 in cash prizes given to Colorado teachers, schools](#)

*9News - October 3, 2017*

The Succeeds Prize - the most prestigious awards and recognition event for Colorado's public schools and educators - will give away nearly \$100,000 in cash prizes at a live reveal celebration tonight at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Denver.

### [Five Colorado schools given National Blue Ribbon status by Betsy DeVos](#)

*The Denver Post - September 28, 2017*

Five Colorado schools were recognized Thursday as National Blue Ribbon Schools, cited for high performance on state and national tests.

### [Denver-based University Prep charter school network wins federal grant, opening expansion possibilities](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 28, 2017*

Denver charter school operator University Prep has won a nearly \$1.4 million federal

grant this year as part of a U.S. Department of Education program that helps bankroll the expansion and replication of successful charter schools.

SkyView Academy Rallies to Help Hurricane Harvey Victims

*Your Hub - September 29, 2017*

When SkyView Academy (SVA) middle school students learned about the disaster Hurricane Harvey left in its wake areas in and around Houston, TX they wasted no time initiating a plan to help.

Colorado Springs School District 11's CIVA charter school featured by state

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - September 27, 2017*

One success has led to another for CIVA Charter High School in Colorado Springs School District 11.

Reshaping Space, Roles and Routines to Support Children With Trauma

*EdSurge - September 27, 2017*

In 2008, the Holly Square Shopping Center in northeast Denver was firebombed with molotov cocktails in gang-related arson.

SkyView Academy Class of 2018 SAT Scores Place in Top 20 in Colorado

*Your Hub - September 27, 2017*

SkyView Academy class of 2018 has something to celebrate these days.

## **Opinion/Commentary Articles, Reports & 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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How to Ensure ESSA Succeeds Where NCLB Failed? Local Leadership Built Around Innovation

The 74 - October 3, 2017

Although it may be hard to believe today, Congress passed the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act with overwhelming bipartisan support.

There's Something Missing From STEM Learning

EdWeek - October 2, 2017

The education field can always count on shifting priorities. Over the past 20 years, in an attempt to "fix" what many people dub a broken public school system, everyone from politicians to famous athletes to business moguls to education leaders has tried to find and repair the gaps in student achievement.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

Below are some other great education reform news, blog and discussion sites that may be of interest:

A+ Colorado - Sharpening Public Education

Another View

Chalkbeat Colorado

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

Social and Emotional Learning: A Practical Guide to School-Wide Implementation

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, October 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$125 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee

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

Meals: A light breakfast and snacks will be offered; lunch will not be provided.

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, MTSS support staff, counselors, support staff

Description: Effective Socio-Emotional Learning, as described by CASEL, includes: Explicit SEL Skills Instruction, Teacher Instructional Practices, Integration with Academic Curriculum Areas, and Organization, Climate and Cultural Strategies. Moving beyond the content of any one curriculum, this workshop explores nine critical factors for high-quality, school-wide SEL. Participants will develop a clear understanding of the "what, why, and how" of SEL and will work together in small groups to apply the 9 critical factors to their unique school setting. An exploration on the use of active engagement strategies and assessing the strengths and growth points of your setting in all aspects of SEL integration will occur.

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

Colorado Alternative Education Campuses Conference

Hosted by the Colorado Coalition for Alternative Education Campuses

Date: Friday, October 13

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: New America School, 5806 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood

Description: Join AEC schools across the state to improve your learning and understanding for supporting high-risk students. This conference is designed for teachers, principals, counselors and support staff and will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics such as dropout prevention, instructional strategies and resources, addressing social/emotional needs, accountability updates and best practices. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network with each other and learn from consultants and experts in the field.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, October 6.

2017 Colorado Safe Schools Summit

Hosted by Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Wednesday, October 18 - Thursday, October 19

Location: Adams 12 Five Star Conference Center, 1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton

Cost: Full two-day registration \$95 plus registration fees | Single day registration cost \$48 plus registration fees.

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

Mindfulness & Self-Care for Educators

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, October 25

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$125 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee

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

Meals: A light breakfast and snacks will be offered, but lunch will not be provided.

Audience: School leaders, instructional coaches, lead teachers, teachers, health and wellness staff, counselors, and support staff

Description: In today's fast-paced and high stakes educational climate, the rate of teacher burnout and turnover is increasing at an alarming rate. Thus, it is crucial that educators learn and practice effective self-care strategies. Self-care is not just something that occurs before and after work. Rather, effective self-care must include proactive and in-the-moment strategies that teachers can use on-the-job to reduce stress and respond to difficult situations. This highly experiential workshop demonstrates a variety of mindfulness techniques and delivers practical, research-backed strategies to help educators including:

- Fostering feelings of calm and ease in any moment
- Strengthening and managing their most valuable resource - attention
- Recognizing the signs and symptoms of toxic stress and burnout
- Increasing their nervous system's capacity for dealing with difficult situations
- Responding effectively to challenging emotions
- Using breath, movement, and attention to reduce stress and increase well-being
- Building a personal 'toolbox' of self-care strategies

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

Charter School Law Institute's Colorado Legal Seminar

Hosted by the Charter School Law Institute

Date: Friday, October 27

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: DPPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street, Denver

Cost: \$275 for one person and \$250 per additional attendee

Description: [Charter School Law Institute](#) will be running a one-day in-depth legal seminar on emerging federal and state civil rights issues. Through a combination of lectures and small-group breakout sessions led by local and national experienced legal counsel, they will: examine how to navigate immigration issues facing students and schools; learn how the US Supreme Court is raising expectations for public schools serving special education students; discuss how to prevent race discrimination, including unintentional and unconscious bias; review state and federal laws regarding LGBT students; and address issues specific to school discipline, bullying, harassment and sexual violence. Together, they will tackle the most cutting edge legal questions facing charter schools across the country. As an attendee, you will leave with concrete, practical strategies and tips on how to ensure you are in compliance of all related legal requirements and effectively serving all students.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, October 20.

NWEA 2 Day Workshop: MAP Skills Basics, Assessment Data for RtI, Instructional Ladder, and Engaging ALL Students

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and facilitated by NWEA

Dates: Monday, October 30 - Tuesday, October 31

Times: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM each day

Cost: League Members: \$350 per person for two days; \$175 per person for one day | Non-members: \$500 per person for two days; \$250 per person for one day

Location: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S. Spruce Street, Englewood

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided both days.

Audience: NWEA Users, Classroom Teachers, Interventionists, Data Support Staff, RtI Coordinators, Data and Accountability Staff, MTSS Coordinators, Instructional Coaches, Teacher's Aides, and Administration

Description: Welcome to the 2 Day NWEA Conference hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools!

There will be a total of four power sessions delivered within this two day regional training. The first session called "MAP Skills Basics" allows time for participants to practice assigning and taking missions, such as Skills Locators and Mastery Checks. Participants will explore assessment reports and data, the skills framework, and learning resources. There will be an opportunity to explore how to apply MAP Skills data to support decision-making.

The second session is called "Assessment Data for RtI". Participants will define and align current assessment data with appropriate uses. In addition, attendees will identify tools and resources for screening students, monitoring progress, and determining mastery. Participants will apply MAP Growth and MAP Skills data to key RtI practices.

The third session is called "Instructional Ladder". During this session, participants will design tiered, responsive instructional plans by integrating standards, MAP Growth data, and local curriculum. Attendees will engage in topics of interest, such as formative assessment or flexible grouping, to deepen the understanding of instructional planning.

The final session called "Engaging All Students" is a time when participants can connect current practice to research about why we should elicit evidence of learning. Participants will identify strategies that can engage all students in providing evidence of their learning. Attendees will also outline how to adjust instruction based on the data collection.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 25.

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

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