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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



October 7, 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.

**2016 Preliminary School and District Performance Frameworks Released  
October 4**

The new revised preliminary School and District Performance Frameworks were provided to districts on Tuesday, October 4. Contact the District Assessment Coordinator at your district/authorizer to obtain yours. Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) frameworks are expected to be released at the end of October. If you have questions or need assistance in accessing these reports, please reach out to Tisha Bouwmeester, Performance and Accountability Manager at the League at [tbouwmeester@coloradoleague.org](mailto:tbouwmeester@coloradoleague.org).

### **Students of Color Reception**

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

### **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**

### Colorado Association of School Boards resolutions raise red flags

*Journal Advocate - October 6, 2016*

However, one she is not in favor of was submitted by the Durango School Board and calls on CASB to urge the adoption of a new School Finance Act that eliminates the opportunity gap for students in low-wealth districts and addresses the lack of equity in the current system. The resolution states that to significantly reduce the academic achievement gap, school districts need funding for poor students equal to two or two-and-a-half times the costs of educating non-poor students.

### Southwest Open School honored by El Pomar grant

*The Journal - October 5, 2016*

Southwest Open School has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from El Pomar Foundation for its work serving at-risk and diverse students in Southwest Colorado.

### Election 2016: Area school districts seek \$790M

*Fort Collins Coloradoan - October 5, 2016*

It's a presidential election year, sure, but in Colorado, the November vote will also

clarify the future of public education funding in Colorado.

Racial bias among preschool teachers is a problem, study says. Here's what Colorado experts think should be done.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 5, 2016*

Some of Colorado's early childhood leaders say findings from a new study on preschool teacher bias spotlight the need for a more diverse early childhood workforce and more training to combat the unconscious bias teachers of all races bring to the classroom.

Vanguard School Civil War Reenactment (Photo Gallery)

*Colorado Springs Gazette - October 4, 2016*

Fifth graders from the Vanguard School reenact a scene from the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, which took place during the Civil War, at the school on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

Boulder Valley school enrollment looking flat, St. Vrain continuing to grow

*DailyCamera - October 4, 2016*

Preliminary student enrollment counts show very little growth in the Boulder Valley School District, while the neighboring St. Vrain Valley School District is continuing its high growth pattern.

Acknowledging institutional racism, Denver Public Schools details response to black educators' concerns

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 3, 2016*

Two months after a critical report detailed how black educators feel mistreated by Denver Public Schools - and feel the needs of African-American students are going unmet - school district officials Monday outlined in more detail a plan for how they will respond.

Colorado school districts join legal fight against TABOR

*The Denver Post - October 3, 2016*

Colorado school boards who claim Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights has decimated student funding have joined a five-year legal fight to have the law dismantled.

Metro State lands \$8.5 million grant to expand work on equity issues

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 3, 2016*

A Denver-based organization is getting a big boost from the federal government to help more schools improve educational opportunities for underserved students.

Candidates for school board vacancy in Douglas County to interview Tuesday

*The Denver Post - October 3, 2016*

The Douglas County School Board will conduct interviews Tuesday evening with the candidates vying for an open seat on the board in hopes that the body leading the state's third-largest school district can get back to full strength.

Two Rivers school secures \$10M for building project

*PostIndependent / Citizen Telegram - September 30, 2016*

Two Rivers Community School has finalized a deal that will allow it to buy the building it has occupied for two years and embark on an \$8.4 million renovation and new preschool/kindergarten addition.

At the Denver School of Science and Technology: Green Valley Ranch High School, being responsible is part of their core values.

9News - September 30, 2016

At the Denver School of Science and Technology: Green Valley Ranch High School, being responsible is part of their core values.

Greeley-Evans School District 6, other northern Colorado districts may have flouted campaign finance laws

*The Greeley Tribune - September 30, 2016*

A lack of balance in communication about multi-million dollar ballot initiatives has put many northern Colorado school districts in apparent violation of Colorado's Fair Campaign Practices Act.

New Adams 14 superintendent: We need to bring along our English language learners - quickly

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 30, 2016*

New Adams 14 schools superintendent Javier Abrego is a Texas-born, Chicago-raised son of farmworkers who failed first grade because he didn't know English.

Montessori leader recognized for charter school advocacy work

*Steamboat Today - September 29, 2016*

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School Head of School Michael Hayes was recognized earlier this week for his work advocating for rural charter schools on a state and national level.

Storytellers: Boy with autism excels in photography

*9News - September 25, 2016*

The 10-year-old boy was diagnosed with autism when he was 3 years old. "Sometimes, it's a little bit hard to concentrate on things," Morgan said. At Free Horizon Montessori in Golden, Teacher Miranda Anderson says Morgan does a operate a little differently in class. "The only difference I see with him and the other students is that he does need that extra clarification of directions," Anderson said.

## 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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School choice counters modern segregation

The Colorado Springs Gazette - October 6, 2016

School choice creates options for today's Oliver Browns - loving parents who want better schools for their kids. Charter school policies empower parents to organize and establish specialized, competing schools. Some benefit children who need a more hands-on approach to learning. Others emphasize music, science, math or art. To attract students and the state money that follows each, charters must provide high standards previously associated with pricey private schools.

National Alliance Calls for States to Strengthen Charter School Laws

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - October 5, 2016

Continuing in its efforts to open the doors of high-quality charter public schools to a total of 4 million students by 2020, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is

calling for state policymakers to strengthen the laws that govern charter schools by aligning them with the National Alliance's A Model Law for Supporting High-Quality Charter Public Schools: Second Edition. In this revised version of the model law, the National Alliance outlines a set of policies which, if adopted, would increase the focus of state-level charter school laws on creating high-quality charter schools while holding underperforming schools and authorizers accountable.

[Black Charter School Parents Urge Others to Sign Parent Letter to NAACP, ChartersWork Website Launches to Support Parent Voice in National School Choice Conversation](#)

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - September 29, 2016

Charter school parents in New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington State are calling on parents across the country to sign onto a letter that gives them a voice in the national dialogue surrounding charter public schools and parental choice. The letter, which lives at www.charterswork.com, urges the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to reconsider the position it took in July to put a moratorium on charter public schools.

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

2016 Colorado Safe Schools Summit

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU Boulder and Safe2Tell of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General

Dates: Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13

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

Cost: \$90 per person for both days (\$50 per person per day if registering for individual days).

Meals: Continental breakfast and lunch with a plenary will be part of each day's events.

Plenary speakers scheduled to present:

- Empowering Teens to Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral, Presented by: Dr. Sameer Hinduja
- Unleashing the Power of Prevention to Promote School Safety and Positive Youth, Presented by: Brian Bumbarger, Ph.D.
- Mitigating Risk and Improving Protection: A Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention in Colorado Schools, Presented by: Jarrod Hindman
- The Impact of Marijuana Legalization, Presented by: Michael Song
- Safe2Tell Panel, Presented by: Susan Payne, Founding Executive Director, Suzi

Karrer

- Essential Elements of Effective Behavioral Threat Management Programs,
Presented by: Gene Deisinger. Ph.D.

Registration: [Click here for more information and to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, October 7.

"The 'No-Maybe-Yes' Years: Preparing for Parenting Tweens and Teens" with Kim John Payne, author of Simplicity Parenting

Hosted by Mountain Phoenix Community School

Date: Wednesday, October 12

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Wheat Ridge High School Auditorium, 9505 W. 32nd Avenue, Wheat Ridge

Cost: \$15 for one guest | \$25 for two guests (or pay what is meaningful)

Description: This presentation is designed to help parents who have tweenagers and teenagers and to prepare parents of younger children for the years ahead. It will highlight issues affecting young people, between the ages of 8 and 18, and offer workable strategies for navigating what can be one of the most difficult periods for parents, teachers, and teenagers alike.

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

[Click here](#) to download event flier.

Webinar: Using NWEA MAP Data to Differentiate Instruction

Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, October 13

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Cost: Free

Description: Meet Otus, NWEA's Authorized Data Partner. Otus is a Student Performance Platform, a system that combines a robust learning management system, a collection of classroom management tools, and a powerful data warehouse. With Otus, teachers have the ability to provide students with a more personalized learning experience by using NWEA data to inform their instruction.

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

Lunch & Learn: DIBELS Next and Core Knowledge Language Arts: Getting Results

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Amplify

Date: Thursday, October 20

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cost: League Members: Free; Non-Members: \$25 per person

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

Description: You can move the needle! Thousands of Colorado educators are using curriculum and assessment tools each day to change outcomes for kids. Join us to find out how. Learn about the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project, a FREE resource to help your school in implementing the READ Act. Amplify also publishes a full ELA curriculum called Core Knowledge Language Arts (PreK-5). Get those details for your school needs.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, October 18.

5th Annual NWEA MAP Users Conference

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and NWEA

Date: Friday, October 21

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Cherry Creek School District Student Achievement Resource Center, 14188 E Briarwood Avenue, Centennial

Cost: \$175 early bird; \$225 regular rate. Early bird ends September 26.

Group Discount: Groups of three or more, enter promo code 2016NWEAGROUP for \$20 off per person.

Description: Join NWEA MAP users from more than 50 schools and districts across Colorado for this one-of-a-kind event.

Improve your use and understanding of this valuable assessment while networking and learning from users and experts in the field.

The conference will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics designed for advanced, intermediate and beginner users.

Previous attendees found presentations to be highly valuable, and 100% of those surveyed said they would return.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, October 17.

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 OR 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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

Cost: Free

Description: The Colorado League of Charter schools would like to provide a time and space for new charter school leaders to meet and network. There are two options for the meet and greet on Wednesday, October 26th. The morning session will take place from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM and a light breakfast and coffee will be offered. The afternoon session will take place from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM and light snacks and beverages will be offered. Please attend the time frame that works best for you and dress accordingly since we will be meeting outdoors. 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.

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

Working in Your UIP

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.

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.

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