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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



November 11, 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.

### **2017 Core Knowledge Conference - February 17**

Swallows Charter Academy in Pueblo is seeking presenters and vendors for their 2017 Core Knowledge Conference. Please contact Cindy Compton if interested at [ccompton@district70.org](mailto:ccompton@district70.org) or call 719-547-7230. [Click here to view flyer.](#)

### **[Complete the Certification of Eligibility for Charter School FY2016-17 Capital Construction Funding Form](#)**

All Colorado school districts and the Charter School Institute are required to complete the [CSCC-02 eligibility form](#). Original signatures are required from the school district or Charter School Institute and the charter school. **Once all the forms are received and the pupil count audits are complete, the remaining Charter School Capital Construction funding will be distributed on the new calculated amounts.** The form is due to CDE by Friday, December 2.

### **Parents, what information about your school and district is most important to you?**

There are many factors that show how well your school or district is meeting your student's academic success, but each parent has his or her own idea of what is important. The Colorado Department of Education has launched an online survey to learn what families want to know about their schools and districts for an upcoming scorecard. Please fill out the short survey below to have your voice heard:

English - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cdereportsurvey>

Spanish - <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/CS6BHJ9>

### **What do you think about Colorado's academic standards?**

The Colorado Department of Education is seeking input from educators, educational leaders, parents, students and the general public to find out general perceptions about the Colorado Academic Standards. An online survey will be available through Sunday, Nov. 13. The results will inform the department's planning for the upcoming review and revision of the standards before July 1, 2018, and every six years thereafter.

To participate, please click here: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3050456/Colorado-Department-of-Education-Academic-Standards-Survey>

## **News Articles**

[At diverse schools across metro Denver, deep-rooted concern over what a Trump presidency will bring](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 9, 2016*

At Lincoln High School in southwest Denver, many students and teachers spent most of the school day crying. At Rocky Mountain Prep elementary schools, students asked their teachers if they or their families would have to leave the country. An Aurora principal heard of two cases of Hispanic students being told by classmates that they would be deported.

### Majority of Colorado School Funding Measures Pass

*Colorado Public Radio - November 9, 2016*

Voters decided on a record number of school funding measures Tuesday night as 44 districts asked for about \$4.4 billion in total tax measures. About two-thirds of the 65 measures in play passed.

### GOP on track to maintain control of Colorado Senate; House to stay in Democratic hands

*The Denver Post - November 9, 2016*

It looked increasingly likely Wednesday morning that Republicans would maintain their one-vote advantage in the Colorado Senate, with two seats in the chamber looking to flip political allegiances and thus canceling each other out.

### Academy, Falcon districts approve more money for schools

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - November 8, 2016*

Two of five Pikes Peak-region school districts won voter approval Tuesday to build new schools, refurbish existing schools and make other improvements.

### Denver school package passes, Jeffco measure fails

*The Denver Post - November 8, 2016*

Denver voters Tuesday night backed a \$628 million tax package to build new schools and improve the cooling systems in several others in the Denver Public Schools.

### Voters in St. Vrain, Boulder Valley school districts pass tax hikes

*Daily Camera - November 8, 2016*

Voters were proving generous with local school districts, passing tax increases for Boulder Valley, St. Vrain Valley and Adams 12 on Tuesday night, based on results as of 10:40 p.m.

### What's the difference between a school bond and a mill levy? We explain.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 7, 2016*

A record number of school tax measures are on Colorado's local ballots this year. Some districts are requesting money to pay bond debt, some are requesting what are called mill levy overrides, and some are doing both.

### Douglas County school district leaders' ties to conservative group central to vacancy dispute

*The Denver Post - November 5, 2016*

A conservative civic leadership program headed by a former Republican U.S. congressman has assumed a significant role - and stirred up controversy - in the Douglas County School Board's protracted effort to seat a final director.

### Will Colorado charter schools get a piece of this year's local tax measures? It's all over the map.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 4, 2016*

The governing board of Aurora's longest-running charter school is opposing the school district's \$300 million bond issue for building improvements, arguing that existing charter schools aren't getting their fair share while a charter network from Denver stands to benefit.

### Charter school report shows national enrollment growth

*Education Watchdog - November 3, 2016*

A new report found that 20 school districts nationwide have at least 30 percent of

students enrolled in charter schools. The 11th annual *A Growing Movement: America's Largest Charter Public School Communities and Their Impact on Student Outcomes* by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools shows the charter school movement is growing around the country.

## 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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North Star Academy Hosts 3rd Annual Grandparents Day

North Star Academy - November 9, 2016

For many families whose students attend North Star Academy (NSA), the close-knit K-8 public, tuition-free charter school nestled in Parker is an extension of their own family. This rang especially true on October 6, also fondly known to the students as Grandparents Day.

Schools That Work

The New York Times - November 4, 2016

BOSTON - Alanna Clark still remembers the stress of third-grade reading time. When her class read books together aloud, Alanna would often become confused.

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

Annual Math Matters Competition

Hosted by Lotus School for Excellence

Date: Saturday, November 12

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Lotus School for Excellence, 11001 East Alameda Avenue, Aurora

Cost: Free

Description: Lotus School for Excellence is proud to host the annual Math Matters competition again this year. Math Matters is the only math contest for fourth and fifth graders in the state of Colorado. The test itself is comprised of 14 difficult questions and the answers will be graded immediately so each student will know his or her placement after the competition. Space is limited so sign-up for the competition today!

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

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.

How to Create Lively and Engaging Classrooms for Developing Bilinguals

Hosted by ThinkCERCA

Date: Tuesday, November 15

Time: Option One - 8:00 AM; Option Two - 11:00 AM

Cost: Free

Location: Webinar

Description: As today's classrooms are becoming increasingly diverse, district leaders, school administrators, and teachers must work to meet the needs of all learners. In this webinar, strategies and best practices for supporting your ELLs (and really, all learners!) will be addressed.

Join ThinkCERCA's Director of Professional Learning & School Design and former Boston Public Schools district leader, Kavita Venkatesh, to learn about conversational strategies for ensuring student growth along the progression of WIDA levels or other state-specific ELD standards.

Strengthening students' conversational skills is essential to student success. Learn how to create a lively classroom by increasing student collaboration, supporting students' academic English, and teaching vocabulary.

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

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.

Close Reading Strategies

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:

Monday, November 21 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Tuesday, December 6 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Thursday, February 2 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$300 per person for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions | \$200 for each additional attendee

Target Audience: Teachers, Reading and/or Literacy Specialists and Interventionists, Reading Across the Curriculum Teachers, Instructional Coaches

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will learn a variety of ways to teach Common Core State standards through close reading rituals or strategies. These strategies can be used across the content areas. Teachers will be able to experience the close reading rituals with a variety of text, adjust existing lesson plans to embed and implement the close reading strategies, promote close reading strategies and rituals, embed interventions, and receive quality feedback through peer to peer teaching and coaching of the close reading strategies. Lunch will be provided at each session.

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

Colorado Council on High School & College Relations Annual Conference

Date: Thursday, December 1 - Friday, December 2

Location: Colorado Springs Marriott, 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs

Description: Breakout sessions for counselors, administrators, testing coordinators, community based organizations and more. Plenty of networking opportunities abound!

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

Lunch & Learn: Educate and Inspire the Next Generation of Global Citizens

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and EF: Education First

Date: Tuesday, December 6

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cost: Free

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Conference Room, 2696 S. Colorado

Blvd., Suite 250, Denver

Description: Transform the way your students look at the world-and themselves. Join this energizing session to learn how to make global perspectives a reality for all your students.

Connect...

With colleagues from your school and other charter schools who share a similar passion for developing global citizenship and leadership skills in students.

Engage...

With other educators in round-table discussions around what it means to be globally competent, how that impacts student success in college and career and how these skills can be fostered.

Be inspired...

To take steps toward developing a global education program in your school and providing students and teachers with opportunities for experiential learning abroad.

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

Data Coaching and Interpretation

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, December 7

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee;
Non-Members: \$225 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

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

Description: Is your team analyzing data to inform instruction and help students improve? Finding meaning is the bridge between data and action. Data interpretation can be informative, empowering, and tricky too! This workshop focuses on implementing effective data analysis to inform instructional action, while avoiding unsupported generalizations.

Participants will:

- Apply general assessment and interpretation concepts to the analysis of your data
- Understand the repercussions of making inferences not supported by data
- Implement a framework of protocols to help avoid making premature data judgments
- Interpret data to identify possible instructional actions
- Understand common challenges in accepting analyses and discuss strategies for moving past those barriers
- Identify strategies for data time

Target Audience: Assessment Staff, Curriculum Coordinators, Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers, Special Education Staff, Instructional Coaches

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, November 21. Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 attendees.

PowerSchool: A Day in the Life of a Registrar

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, December 8

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Cost: League Member: \$75 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee;
Non-Member: \$100 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee

Meals: Snacks (lunch will not be provided).

Description: Attend this mid-year refresher and review how your systems are working, items you are struggling with, and share tips and tricks. We will discuss registration duty best practices including enrollment, data management for reporting and others. Time will be allotted for attendees to share out and work through their challenges and questions.

Audience: Registrar, secretary or anyone involved in entering or maintaining student data in PowerSchool.

Trainer: Nyssa Strom, Student Information Coordinator, Victory Preparatory Academy

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, December 2. Event contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

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

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