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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**November 18, 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**

**Call for Presentations Ends Today - 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.**

**Cohort-Based Professional Development**

The League is excited to announce new cohort-based professional development

offerings. These multi-day learning opportunities will take place throughout the school year. Upcoming PD includes:

- [Close Reading Strategies](#) (starts November 21 - registration closes today)
- [Implementing Effective Data Teams](#) (starts December 13th)
- [Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes](#) (starts January 10th)
- [Formative and Summative Assessment Practices](#) (starts January 20th)

Participants will create a quality product that will support an action plan, the charter public school, and student outcomes. Click the links above for more information and to register. Questions? Contact Nicole Grzybowski, Director of School Quality and Support at 303-989-5356, ext. 107 or [ngrzybowski@coloradoleague.org](mailto:ngrzybowski@coloradoleague.org).

### **Preparing for the SAT**

Attention high school leaders and counselors! Join the League and The College Board to learn more about the SAT and how to help your students prepare for it. This two-hour workshop takes place Friday, December 2 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in Denver. League members can attend for free. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

### **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.](#)

## **News Articles**

### [Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences to get second campus](#)

*The Pueblo Chieftain - November 17, 2016*

It's been an uplifting week for Brian Repola and the staff and students of Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences.

### [To tackle teacher shortage, start with giving teachers the respect they deserve, superintendents say](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 17, 2016*

The burgeoning teacher shortage and how to solve it was the topic of conversation at an annual gathering of some of Colorado's superintendents and business leaders. And the message was clear: the situation is dire.

### [Charter school sees some fruits of RFSD bond money](#)

*PostIndependent / Citizen Telegram - November 16, 2016*

The lone charter school to operate under the umbrella of the Roaring Fork School District, Carbondale Community School, is sharing some of the benefit from the \$122 million bond issue that was approved last year.

### [Former state Speaker of the House disagrees with NAACP on charter school resolution](#)

*The Complete Colorado - November 15, 2016*

A recent resolution by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People against charter schools has drawn sharp criticism from top African American and charter school leaders who say the organization that is supposed to advance and protect the education of colored students may have just set them back decades instead.

### [New Charter School Gets School Board Approval](#)

*Pagosa Daily Post - November 15, 2016*

The Pagosa Charter School Initiative (PCSI) board of directors, plus a dozen supportive members of the community, squeezed themselves into the cozy conference room at the Archuleta School District (ASD) administrative offices on Monday, November 14, to witness the School Board's vote to approve the Pagosa Peak Open School - the first charter school ever to be authorized by the school district.

Inside the frenzied push to chase every vote in a Colorado State Board of Education race

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 15, 2016*

At the office park suite that houses the Arapahoe County Democratic Party, the election goes on.

Expo gives eighth-graders ideas about careers

*Castle Rock News-Press - November 15, 2016*

Eighth-grader Liz Reifsteck and other students from Parker Core Knowledge Charter School gathered around the High Impact booth to watch as data was transformed into a computer-animated model of an accident scene. More than 5,300 eighth-grade students from 21 Douglas County School District middle schools and charter schools attended the district's Career Expo on Nov. 9 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock.

Narrow margins in state board of education race and slavery question

*The Denver Post - November 14, 2016*

The Democrat holding a narrow lead for a key seat on the State Board of Education race refuses to declare victory, while perplexing ballot language probably led Colorado voters to reject an anti-slavery measure on Election Day.

What does Trump's win mean for Colorado schools? Here are some good guesses.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 11, 2016*

Colorado Republicans and education leaders yearning for more control over public schools may get their wish under a Donald J. Trump presidency.

Frontier Academy celebrates five years of planning as construction begins on major projects

*The Greeley Tribune - November 10, 2016*

Frontier Elementary School principal Bradford Every had a question for the students gathered on a grassy area outside the school Thursday.

After welcoming almost 150 undocumented teachers, Teach for America starts planning for a Trump reality

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 9, 2016*

Among the many people in America reeling from today's presidential election results: The 146 Teach For America teachers who work in classrooms across the country but are not documented citizens.

School helps keep street a bit more comfortable

*Lakewood Sentinel - November 8, 2016*

Some conscientious Wheat Ridge elementary students scarf-bombed area parks last weekend.

## 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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Will the New Administration Love School Choice to Death?

*The Center on Reinventing Public Education - November 16, 2016*

My education policy friends were frustrated that education didn't get more air time during the presidential campaign season, but I was relieved. I cringed every time I heard candidate Donald Trump and his surrogates talk about education. All I could think of was the analysis I did eight years ago of George W. Bush's school choice legacy. My view was that President Bush actually hurt the charter movement by trying to help it: by tying charter schools to NCLB punishment, and by pushing choice as an end, not a means.

Academy of Advanced Learning K-8 Public School Coming to Aurora

*Academy of Advanced Learning - November 14, 2016*

Academy of Advance Learning (AAL), a free, public K-8 school is opening in northwest Aurora for the 2017-2018 school year after unanimous approval from the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education during their June 21, 2016 board meeting.

How my school embraced student protesters after Trump's win

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 11, 2016*

Randall Duval is a 12th-grade language arts teacher and senior content leader at Denver Center for International Studies at Montbello High School.

National Alliance Statement on the 2016 Election

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - November 10, 2016*

Washington, D.C. - The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools today released the following statement regarding the 2016 presidential election and its implications for strengthening public school choice, an issue that enjoys bipartisan support:

### 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

## Close Reading Strategies

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

### 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.

**\*\*Note:** Registration and payment covers three separate events. Please make sure you can attend each one.\*\*

## 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:** Whether you are a high school counselor or a college admissions representative, Annual Conference is the perfect event to help you unwind after a busy fall. The Annual Conference committee plans and produces this phenomenal event that takes place on the first Thursday and Friday of December. Keynote speakers, relevant and timely sessions, and plenty of professional connections make this event a huge success every year!

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

## Preparing for the SAT

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, December 2

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

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

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

**Description:** Attend this workshop to learn more about the SAT and how to help your students prepare for it (the SAT will be administered this spring in lieu of the ACT). This two-hour workshop will help educators:

- Get to know the SAT
- Explore the SAT essay
- Connect student practice and preparation with classroom instruction
- Investigate the SAT benefits to students with Roadtrip Nation and Big Future
- Support students in understanding their [PSAT 10 scores](#)

**Audience:** All Colorado educators who will be involved in the administration of SAT School Day are encouraged to attend including instructional coaches, school leaders, assistant principals, and lead teachers.

**Trainer:** Sarah Orłowski, Senior Director, Colorado State & District Partnerships, [The College Board](#)

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, November 28.

### **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 unsupportable 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 Avenue, 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.

### **Banning Lewis Ranch Santa Sprint 5k**

*Hosted by Banning Lewis Ranch benefiting the BLRA Foundation*

**Date:** Saturday, December 10

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Banning Lewis Ranch Academy, 7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs

**Cost:** Last Minute Shopper Adult 16-100 (Nov 17-Dec 9) \$35

Same Day Shopper Adult 16-100 (Dec 10) \$40

Elf Kids 6-15 \$10

Sled Dog \$10

**Description:** The Banning Lewis Ranch Santa Sprint 5k will offer runners, walkers, and well-behaved (leashed) dogs a beautiful course that winds through the Banning Lewis Ranch community located on the north east side of Colorado Springs. You will be dazzled with some of the most spectacular views of Pikes Peak along the route. The race will kick off in the open field directly to the south of the Banning Lewis Ranch Academy facility (7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive). The race will benefit the BLRA Foundation with proceeds going towards the opening of Banning Lewis Preparatory in Fall of 2017.

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

### **Implementing Effective Data Teams**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates/Times:**

Tuesday, December 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Friday, January 13 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, March 14 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**Location:Cost:** League Members: \$350 per person for all three sessions. |

Non-Members: \$450 per person for all three sessions | \$200 for each additional attendee.

**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 to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, December 9.

**\*\*Note:** Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one.\*\*

**LightSail Lunch & Learn**

*Hosted by LightSail*

**Date:** Tuesday, December 13

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

**Location:** Virginia Village Library Denver, 1500 S. Dahlia Street, Denver

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** Join LightSail for an upcoming Lunch & Learn! LightSail invites Colorado educators to learn how LightSail's digital literacy platform personalizes the reading experiences for students and enhances instruction for educators.

About LightSail: LightSail is the adaptive reading platform that helps students, classrooms, and school districts exceed their literacy goals. Schools use LightSail to support independent reading, small group work, and whole-class instruction. LightSail is one of the fastest growing literacy solutions in K-12 and is one of the only applications to receive a 5-star rating by Common Sense Media two years in a row.

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

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

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