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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



November 4, 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.

**Free School Emergency Management Training**

Centennial BOCES and eNetLearning have received a grant from the Colorado Department of Education to provide School Emergency Management training to school teams in the Southwest, Northeast, and Northwest/ Mountain BOCES regions and for Pre-Schools. Training will be provided by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center with the goal of helping school districts, charter schools, and non-public schools implement or upgrade emergency operations plans. [Click to view flyer](#) and learn more about this event.

### **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**

[These five schools would benefit from overcrowding if Denver's \\$572 million bond prevails](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 3, 2016*

And at Girls Athletic Leadership Academy, a middle and high school charter housed in a former elementary school in west Denver, teachers work off carts because there aren't enough classrooms, students share lockers, the tiny lunchroom has just 10 tables, and the toilets, sinks and water fountains, built so 5-year-olds could reach them, are at thigh-level for many girls.

[Not all schools want the state telling them how to assess whether kids are ready for kindergarten. Here's why.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 2, 2016*

Next week, Principal Lori Heller will drive to Denver from her tiny elementary school on the Eastern Plains for a hearing before the state Board of Education. She'll bring along her kindergarten teacher, who this year has 10 students in her class.

[New trades schools underway; open house tonight](#)

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - November 2, 2016*

Vocational-technical education has resurged in popularity in a big way. Another new school, Power Technical Early College, a trade school of James Irwin Charter Schools,

recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its building at 2525 Canada Drive.

2018 Colorado budget: Gov. John Hickenlooper proposes \$28.5 billion plan with deep cuts

*The Denver Post - November 2, 2016*

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday proposed a \$28.5 billion state budget that cuts spending on education, hospitals and road construction to help close a \$500 million shortfall.

Colorado's record number of school bond measures raking in donations from varied interests

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 1, 2016*

Almost \$2 million has poured into campaigns working to pass Colorado's 10 largest school bond requests from a range of interests that could benefit, a Chalkbeat review has found.

Whitmire: Rocky Mountain Ties-In Denver, Charters Excel Working With District

*The 74 - November 1, 2016*

Last week Denver released new school rankings based on the tough PARCC tests, which meant some schools got downgraded.

Education reform group continues to spend big in state board race

*Chalkbeat Colorado - November 1, 2016*

A political committee linked to the nonprofit Democrats for Education Reform continues to pour money into a closely watched State Board of Education race.

Colorado's Graduation Guidelines Change Next Year. Here's What You Need To Know.

*KUNC - October 31, 2016*

Starting January 2017, school districts will adopt changes to their graduation requirements that could provide new avenues for students to complete high school.

St. Vrain Valley School District program wins 'One in a Melon' award

*Times-Call Schools - October 31, 2016*

In business attire and high heels, Angela Tagtow, a high-ranking government official from Washington, D.C., is not your typical substitute teacher, but kindergartners in her nutrition mini-class at Flagstaff Academy didn't seem to notice.

First high school for teens trying to beat addictions opening in Colorado Springs

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - October 30, 2016*

A sober high school for kids recovering from addiction to drugs or alcohol is on its way to opening in a few months.

Denver school receives top honors

*9News - October 30, 2016*

A few years ago, neighborhood schools like Cole Middle School were seen as in need of change by some. It's a change Denver School of Science and Technology, or DSST, CEO Bill Kurtz felt was necessary in order to close the achievement gap.

From turnaround to meeting expectations: A Denver charter success story

*ColoradoWatchdog.org - October 28, 2016*

Four years ago, Colorado High School Charter faced possible closure. The board said the school, which had been placed in turnaround status - the worst category for struggling schools - needed to improve quickly or risk being shuttered.

### The 2016 Grades Are In For Denver Public Schools

*Colorado Public Radio - October 28, 2016*

Each year all of Denver's schools get a report card that rates how students are doing on tests overall and their annual academic performance.

### Your guide to understanding Denver Public Schools' color-coded school rating system

*Chalkbeat Colorado - October 27, 2016*

Denver Public Schools released its annual school ratings Thursday. Known as the School Performance Framework, or SPF, the district's rating system assigns each school a color that's not unlike a letter grade. But instead of A through F, schools are rated from blue (the highest rating) to red (the lowest rating).

### Carbondale charter school aims to increase minority enrollment

*Post Independent / Citizen Telegram - October 27, 2016*

A recent change at the federal level in allowed preferences for weighting lottery admissions to charter schools could promote more minority student enrollment at area charters.

## **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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Charter schools aren't all the same

U.S. News & World Report - November 3, 2016

The political struggle over charter schools reached new heights this year. As charter schools' rapid expansion has continued thanks to strong demand from parents and support from the Obama administration, national opposition went further than ever, with calls from the NAACP and Black Lives Matter for a national moratorium on new charter schools. Despite their high visibility, these national calls are mostly political posturing, since charters depend on state, not federal, law.

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

An Invitation To Learn (Denver/Metro)

Hosted by Cambridge Educational Services

Date: Tuesday, November 8

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House, 8100 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village

Cost: Free (A small fee for public school attendees may be required by law in some states)

Audience: Event is limited to non-profit institutions and those serving grades 5 and above

Description: Cambridge Educational Services invites teachers to an enjoyable and informative Testing Readiness Dinner. While enjoying food and drinks at a four star restaurant in the Denver area, this company will present a radically new perspective on testing that offers the possibility of implementing a Unified Testing Readiness Initiative (UTRI) in schools that wish to boost graduation rates, prepare students for the challenging business climate, and send more students on to college and graduate school. Cambridge Educational Services wants to recognize teachers and the hard work they do at this complimentary dinner. While sharing a gourmet meal with other educational professionals, you will:

- Analyze recent changes to the ACT® test and other tests to see how they will affect your students and your programming.
- See how a mathematically sophisticated model can be used to identify student skill gaps.
- Learn how data reports can improve programming and address developmental needs to raise test scores
- Make sure your institution is taking full advantage of available federal grants, local education subsidies, and individual scholarships.
- Introduce yourself to a representative of the Cambridge Award Program. Cambridge offers both individual and institutional assistance.

Registration: Registration is limited to two people per institution. [Click here to register.](#)

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.

An Invitation To Learn (Colorado Springs)

Hosted by Cambridge Educational Services

Date: Wednesday, November 9

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Mackenzie's Chop House, 128 South Tejon Street, Colorado Springs

Cost: Free (A small fee for public school attendees may be required by law in some states)

Audience: Event is limited to non-profit institutions and those serving grades 5 and above

Description: Cambridge Educational Services invites teachers to an enjoyable and informative Testing Readiness Dinner. While enjoying food and drinks at a four star restaurant in the Denver area, this company will present a radically new perspective on testing that offers the possibility of implementing a Unified Testing Readiness Initiative (UTRI) in schools that wish to boost graduation rates, prepare students for the challenging business climate, and send more students on to college and graduate school. Cambridge Educational Services wants to recognize teachers and the hard work they do at this complimentary dinner. While sharing a gourmet meal with other educational professionals, you will:

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- Introduce yourself to a representative of the Cambridge Award Program. Cambridge offers both individual and institutional assistance.

Registration: Registration is limited to two people per institution. [Click here to register.](#)

"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.](#)

Free, Bilingual Yoga

Hosted by Ricardo Flores Magon Academy

Date: Thursday, November 10 (every Thursday except when the school is closed for holidays, etc.)

Time: 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM

Location: Ricardo Flores Magon Academy, 5301 Lowell Boulevard, Denver

Cost: Free

Note: Childcare is offered for a minimum donation of \$3

Description: Join Cultivate Health, an organization from Regis University, for a bilingual yoga class at Ricardo Flores Magon Academy gym each Thursday afternoon. This event is open to the community. If you do attend, please ring the bell at the Lowell front entrance to get in. Be sure to contact Deborah Van Roy, English Language Support Coordinator, with any questions at 303-412-7610.

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.

(Webinar) Numbers That Matter: The Power of Business Intelligence in Education

Hosted by SchoolDude

Date: Thursday, November 10

Time: 12:00 PM

Cost: Free

Description: Is it getting harder to make your case for additional resources, staff or budget? Do you feel like you don't have the adequate justification you need to equip your team for success? Does your Board or management team fully recognize your challenges? When it comes time to answer these tough questions, having the right data and insight at your fingertips is critical to your success - and having a

business intelligence solution in your corner can make all the difference. Join a special live webinar with Jack Bay, Chief Operations Officer of Falcon School District \$49, to hear how he uses business intelligence to:

- Measure his department
- Benchmark progress
- Showcase the district's success to peers and supervisors across his state

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

Lunch & Learn: Encourage Learning with the Right Furniture Selections

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and OfficeScapes

Date: Friday, November 11

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cost: Free

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

Description: In the last 3 or 4 years there has been an explosion of product supporting 21st century learning and collaborative learning. There are also products that can save schools a lot of money, and products that will encourage kids to want to stay on campus. OfficeScapes is passionate about the fact that, for the first time, it offers products that encourage learning and increase test scores versus just providing combo desks that provide crowd control. Attend this Lunch and Learn to hear about the latest innovations in learning environments.

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

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.](#)

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: \$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.

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.

Close Reading Strategies 101 (Monday, November 21)

Close Reading Strategies 102 (Tuesday, December 6)

Close Reading Strategies 103 (Thursday, February 2)

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

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

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