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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



December 16, 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**

**League Holiday Schedule**

The League's office will be closed Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 30. Our office will reopen on Monday, January 2. There will be no Friday Wire newsletter on December 23 or December 30. We wish you a very happy holiday season and look forward to a great new year!

**Free Advocacy Training**

To kick off this year's legislative session, the League is offering a training event to all interested charter school advocates on Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM. It will take place at the Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver. Participants will walk away with a number of tools and techniques for effective charter school advocacy both within their community and at the state level. All charter school supporters - parents, teachers, administrators, board members, former students, etc. - with a passion for advancing the cause of high-quality schools for all Colorado children are strongly encouraged to attend. [Click here to learn more](#) or contact Dan Schaller, League Director of Governmental Affairs, at dschaller@coloradoleague.org with any questions.

**Last Chance to Nominate a Charter Friend**

Does your charter school have an exceptional administrator, board member, business manager, teacher or other leader who is deserving of recognition? Does your charter

school's authorizer demonstrate a high level of commitment to advocacy and support on behalf of charter schools? Do you know of an elected official or community leader who has demonstrated significant influence in public policy on behalf of charter schools? Nominate these outstanding leaders for a Charter Friend Award! [Click here](#) for more information and to submit a nomination. Deadline: Friday, December 16.

### **Attend the Colorado School Choice Week Rally**

Attend the Colorado School Choice Rally on the west steps of the State Capitol in Denver on Thursday, January 26 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Help us make sure that charter public schools are well represented at this fun event. Transportation dollars are available! If your school is interested in bringing a bus full (or more) of students, please contact Stacy Rader at [srader@coloradoleague.org](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org) as soon as possible. Transportation funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **News Articles**

[Katy Anthes, who helped stabilize education department, appointed Colorado's education commissioner](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 15, 2016*

Katy Anthes, who won the respect of educators, advocates and lawmakers during the past seven months as Colorado's interim education commissioner, was appointed Wednesday to the position on a permanent basis by the State Board of Education.

[Colorado still the "least obese" state, but scores poorly for "excessive drinking," high school graduation](#)

*The Denver Post - December 15, 2016*

Colorado still ranks as the "least obese" and the most physically active state, but poor scores for excessive drinking and drug-related deaths have dropped Colorado to the 10th healthiest in the nation, says a new report released Thursday.

[With Eye Toward Trump, King Urges Advocates to Stand Together for Public Education](#)

*The 74 - December 14, 2016*

Education Secretary John King on Wednesday called for unity among "advocates for public education" in a pointed speech that seemed aimed at rallying liberal groups against ideas advocated by the incoming Trump administration.

[How Colorado schools are helping kids calm down - and learn - through mindfulness](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 14, 2016*

On a recent Thursday afternoon, school psychologist Amy Schirm stood before two-dozen fifth-graders in a classroom at Denver's Munroe Elementary School. Piano music played softly in the background and a string of white holiday lights twinkled on the wall behind her.

[Obama's Education Secretary: 'We Should Welcome Good Public Charter Schools'](#)

*The Daily Signal - December 14, 2016*

During one of his final weeks on the job, President Barack Obama's secretary of education called for education leaders to unite around support for charter schools.

[One year after recall election, Jefferson County school board weighing superintendent's fate](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 14, 2016*

The Jefferson County school board has begun discussions to decide the fate of Superintendent Dan McMinimee, one year after voters ousted the conservative board

members who hired him.

Hanover School District 28 board votes to allow trained teachers, other staff to be armed

*Colorado Springs Gazette - December 14, 2016*

Some teachers and other staff in Hanover School District 28 soon will be packing heat. The five-member board of education voted 3-2 on Wednesday night to allow trained faculty and staff to carry concealed handguns at school.

Charter School to Hold Informational Meeting Tomorrow, Dec. 15

*Pagosa Daily Post - December 14, 2016*

The Pagosa Peak Open School - a proposed charter school recently blessed with Archuleta School District approval and a \$400,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Education - has announced a informational public meeting tomorrow, Thursday December 15, at 6pm.

Denver Public Schools wants to give more autonomy to more schools through expanding innovation zone experiment

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 12, 2016*

A bold experiment in giving non-charter schools near-charter-like levels of autonomy could be expanded if a recommendation by Denver Public Schools becomes reality.

State Sen. Michael Johnston reflects on six years of education reform as term ends

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 12, 2016*

When Colorado lawmakers come together on Jan. 11, one of the most influential - and controversial - legislators to work on education policy this decade won't be there.

Investing early in quality child care for at-risk kids pays off big later, research finds

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 11, 2016*

New research reveals that despite hefty up-front costs, quality child care programs for disadvantaged children starting just after birth and continuing to age five produce major financial dividends over the long term.

Denver superintendent sheds light on school closure recommendations, what happens next

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 9, 2016*

While the criteria for Denver school closure recommendations is clearer than ever before, that hasn't made this week's emotional conversations at the three low-performing elementary schools facing that fate any easier, Superintendent Tom Boasberg said Friday.

## 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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SkyView Academy 5th Grader's Selflessness Shines During Holiday Season

SkyView Academy - December 15, 2016

Imagine being homeless with little comfort and security. Now imagine being a child in

this situation without a book, blanket or stuffed animal to call your own and snuggle with during a time of upheaval. That's what SkyView Academy 5th grader Siena Negron thought about as she reflected on the wonderful things she has in her life, realizing that many don't even have necessities. With her birthday around the corner, she decided to donate to charity for her birthday in lieu of receiving gifts.

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

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates/Times/Locations:

Tuesday, January 10 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Date TBD (after January 10) | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

Wednesday, March 15 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: 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.

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

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

Charter Communicators Network Meeting

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 12

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$25 per person; Non-Members: \$75 per person

Note: Includes coffee and lunch

Description: Charter Communicators Network Meetings take place three times per year. This is a chance for charter school communications staff, or any staff interested in building school communications and marketing efforts, to come together. During these meetings, attendees will network and share best practices, as well as hear from experts in the field.

Topic: Telling Your School's Story

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 10.

Advocacy Training

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Saturday, January 14

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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

Cost: Free

Note: Meals will not be provided but coffee and snacks will be available.

Description: Participants will walk away with a number of tools and techniques for effective charter school advocacy both within their community and at the state level. All charter school supporters - parents, teachers, administrators, board members, former students, etc. - with a passion for advancing the cause of high-quality schools for all Colorado children are strongly encouraged to attend. Not able to make the drive to Denver? Remote access will be available.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, January 11.

Classroom Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners & Overview for English Language Development Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, January 17

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: With the growing population of English Language learners (ELL) within our schools, it is essential that schools be prepared to meet the needs of ELL students. In order to do this, teachers and interventionists will need to understand the basic elements of WIDA standards, the features of an English Language Development Plan (ELDP), and the strategies to support learning. This training will provide an overview for creating an English Language Development Plan as well as how to utilize the WIDA standards and build a foundation for classroom strategies that can be incorporated into teaching English Language learners. The workshop will also focus on instructional strategies for English Language learners of varying levels.

Participants will learn:

- The key elements of an effective English Language Development Plan.
- The basics of WIDA standards and how to incorporate them into your daily learning objectives.
- Instructional research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your classroom.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, January 13.

Formative and Summative Assessment Practices

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:

- **Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 101 | Friday, January 20 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM**
- **Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 102 | Thursday, February 9 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM**
- **Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 103 | Friday, March 3 | 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, Specialists, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists, Administration

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will build background knowledge on creating and using effective formative and summative assessments practices in their classroom. Participants will be asked to bring assessments data, sample assessments, school-based lesson plans, and student work samples. In each of the sessions, participants will build background knowledge of various types of assessments, how to plan and implement assessment practices to support quality instruction, create structures for systematic checks for understanding, and creating quality criteria to discover what you want to learn from the assessment. Lunch will be provided for each of the three sessions.

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

Global Education Symposium

Hosted by EF Education First and Learning Forward Colorado

Date: Saturday, January 21

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: EF Education First, 1755 Blake St. Suite 300, Denver

Cost: Free (this event is free to administrators and teachers working with grades 6-12, but space is limited). Participants will earn 6.5 hours of free Professional Development credit.

Description: Please join EF Education First, Learning Forward Colorado, and administrators and teachers from around the state for an engaging day of workshops focused on developing global citizenship, leadership, and cultural competency in your school community.

During the day you'll interact with global education experts, hear from students about the successful impact of educational travel, examine models of effective global education programs, and explore how to help students effectively access and analyze cultural diversity within our world.

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

Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, January 23

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: This workshop will apply research-based strategies for teaching adult learners to support teachers in learning how to structure, plan, and lead effective professional development workshops. This session will build upon the instructional leaders' capacity to lead school-based PD sessions in their areas of expertise.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, January 19.

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

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