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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



December 9, 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**

**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.

**Free Office Supplies**

The Donnell-Kay Foundation is donating a number of office supplies to interested schools. The items include: numerous binders (2 boxes plus more), 3 keyboards,

numerous easel paper pads, and a printer. Please contact Carmelita Galicia-Munoz at [cgaliciamunoz@dkfoundation.org](mailto:cgaliciamunoz@dkfoundation.org) if interested in these supplies or to arrange pick-up at their Denver office. Carmelita is happy to send photos of the items directly to you.

## News Articles

### [Aurora school board raises red flags about bringing DSST charter to district, but signs off on continuing negotiations](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 7, 2016*

The school board for Aurora Public Schools on Tuesday gave district officials approval to continue negotiations with the DSST charter network, but not before raising concerns about the process and emphasizing that this green light doesn't guarantee final approval later.

### [Colorado Supreme Court weighs challenge to law governing job protections for teachers](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 7, 2016*

Are good veteran teachers still guaranteed jobs in Colorado, provided they don't mess up? The Colorado Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday on that issue and others related to a landmark 2010 state law that changed the rules for teacher evaluations and assignments.

### [All work and no play: Colorado kids losing out on P.E., report finds](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 7, 2016*

Many Colorado educators say funding constraints and the relentless pressure to focus on academics means physical education gets short shrift in schools.

### [Meet the Colorado lawmakers on the state legislature's education committees](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 6, 2016*

Plenty of familiar faces - and political fault lines - are returning next year to the state legislature's education committees.

### [New tests show US education lags foreign competitors: 'We're losing ground'](#)

*The Gazette via the Associated Press - December 6, 2016*

American students have a math problem. The latest global snapshot of student performance shows declining math scores in the U.S. and stagnant performance in science and reading.

### [Rebecca Holmes named president and CEO of Colorado Education Initiative](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 6, 2016*

Rebecca Holmes, a former associate state education commissioner with experience working as a teacher and charter school executive, as well as for private foundations and in the private sector, was announced Tuesday as the next president and CEO of the Colorado Education Initiative.

### [Northfield High School parents, students sound off against sharing campus with charter school](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 6, 2016*

Emotions ran high Monday night in Denver's Northfield High School cafeteria, which was packed with nearly 300 people who had come to discuss the school district's plans for the campus.

### [Farm-to-lunch-table program helps Colorado students understand that food doesn't](#)

just come from the supermarket

*The Denver Post - December 5, 2016*

Natalie Condon smiled Monday as young consumers of her Lafayette farm's winter squash harvest compared notes about the vegetable's texture and taste.

Colorado university gets \$2.2 million grant to address rural teacher shortage

*Denver Business Journal - December 5, 2016*

School teachers in Colorado's rural districts are often paid lower than teachers elsewhere, something organizations like the Colorado Education Association says has led to a teacher shortage.

Colorado school funding advocates take early steps toward possible 2018 ballot measure

*Chalkbeat Colorado - December 2, 2016*

Stung that a proposed 2016 ballot initiative that would have sent millions of dollars to Colorado classrooms was abandoned, a coalition of school funding advocates is quietly meeting to consider crafting a different package for the 2018 election.

STEM students 'Band Together' through music and tech

*9News - December 2, 2016*

According to the National Association For Music Education, successful music education advocacy depends on highlighting how music develops key skills in students, including self-reflection, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation.

## **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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Guest opinion: Schools and dollars - what is fair?

PostIndependent Citizen Telegram - December 3, 2016

Locally, Carbondale Community School, a charter of the RFSD, received bond money, but two other charter schools, Two Rivers Community School (TRCS) and Ross Montessori (RM) did not. Jointly, TRCS and RM, both K-8 schools, serve more than 500 students and their families. They were chartered through the Charter School Institute, a district of the Colorado Department of Education, and are public schools accountable for the same measures. One wonders why they should not receive the same local money to support the same young people from the community who ultimately graduate from the same high schools. After all, their parents paid those taxes too.

American Academy Breaks Ground for New Campus in Parker

American Academy - December 2, 2016

American Academy, a high-achieving charter public school with a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focus, award-winning visual and performing arts, and character development program, broke ground on their third campus this Wednesday, November 30.

A Field Trip to Aspen View Academy

Ed Is Watching - November 22, 2106

It's almost Thanksgiving! Everyone is slowly starting to unwind from the last few weeks of frantic activity. Most are preparing to stuff themselves silly with turkey and dressing and mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie and many, many other delicious treats.

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

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.](#)

The Right Mix: Designing a Digital Content and Curriculum Strategy Webinar

Hosted by CoSN (Consortium for School Networking)

Date: Tuesday, December 13

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free for members; \$59.00 for non-members (Regular registration ends on December 13 and late registration starts on December 14).

Description: Join this webinar to learn how to break through the barriers between curriculum and technology to develop the right digital content strategy for your school system. During this webinar, you will learn more about the Guide to Choosing Digital Content and Curriculum created by the Center for Digital Education and CoSN as well as example strategies and innovative ways to apply them.

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

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.

Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, January 16

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 12.

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.

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

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Colorado League of Charter Schools, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,  
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