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



**February 10, 2017**

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**

**Colorado Charter Schools Conference - Detailed Breakout Session Information Now Online**

Register today for the 2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference, scheduled for February 23 and 24 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. **Click here to view detailed information about the breakout sessions being offered.** This year's event will sell out! Learn more and register at [www.COCharterConference.org](http://www.COCharterConference.org)

**Computer Giveaway**

Aurora Academy Charter School is giving away Dell D360/380 Towers. These computers are in good condition and include: approximately 25 Intel Dual Core, Windows 7 and 10 compatible, 160G HDD, network card, CD/DVD drive, 17" flat panel monitor, keyboard and mouse. If interested, please contact Lance Stevens at [lstevens@academy.org](mailto:lstevens@academy.org).

**Modular Classroom For Sale**

West Ridge Academy Charter School in Greeley is selling a modular classroom. It is 5 years old, in excellent condition and its features include: 1,792 square feet, two

classrooms (no restroom), extra windows, higher ceilings, extra sound proofing, and built in cabinetry and shelving. It is selling for \$75,000. If interested, please contact Russ Spicer at [rspicer@wrak8.org](mailto:rspicer@wrak8.org) or 970-214-4001. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view photos.

### **2017 Core Knowledge Conference - Call For Presenters**

Swallows Charter Academy in Pueblo West is hosting the 2017 Core Knowledge Conference and is in need of presenters. If interested, please complete [this form](#). The conference will take place on February 17 from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. If you would like to present or attend the conference, please contact Cindy Compton at 719-547-7230 or [ccompton@district70.org](mailto:ccompton@district70.org) to learn more. [Click here to view flyer](#).

### **Core Knowledge and Classical School Job Fair**

Hosted by Vanguard Classical School

Date: Saturday, March 4

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Vanguard Classical School, East Campus, 17101 E. Ohio Drive, Aurora

[Click here for more information.](#)

### **9th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair**

Hosted by The Center for Professional Development at Peak to Peak Charter School

Date: Saturday, March 18

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Peak to Peak Charter School, 800 Merlin Drive, Lafayette

[Click here for more information.](#)

### **Lotus School for Excellence Job Fair**

Date: Saturday, April 8

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Lotus School for Excellence, 11001 E. Alameda Avenue, Aurora

[Click here for more information.](#)

## **News Articles**

### Charter school funding debate takes center stage at Senate Education Committee

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 9, 2017*

Parents, activists and school board members from across Colorado spent hours Thursday arguing for and against a bill that would require school districts to equally share money from local tax increases with charter schools.

### SkyView Academy raises \$17,000 for Haiti

*9News - February 9, 2017*

When kids hold fundraisers for school, the money usually supports the school they attend. But, this time, a charter school in Highlands Ranch wanted to do something for students they never met. "I donated my money to The Vertile Foundation because the kids there are less fortunate than I am," Blake Buckland, SkyView Academy sixth grader, said in a statement.

### Should Colorado charter schools get a share of local tax increases? Some Colorado lawmakers think so.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 8, 2017*

Teachers at the Ricardo Flores Magón Academy charter school in Westminster have been forced to take four days of unpaid leave to help balance this year's budget.

### Colorado educators will soon be required to take training for teaching English learners

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 8, 2017*

Aspiring and existing Colorado educators soon will be required to get additional training in an effort to better teach the state's growing English language learner population.

Parents may gain time for a child's academic activities

*The Durango Herald - February 6, 2017*

Colorado's working parents may have an increased opportunity to attend academic activities for their children in the K-12 system.

Minority students less likely to have teachers rated effective, data show

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 6, 2017*

An overwhelming majority of Colorado teachers and principals received the state's two highest evaluation ratings during the 2014-15 school year, according to data released Monday.

Colorado educator evaluations do not account for disadvantaged school populations

*The Gazette - February 6, 2017*

A first public look at educator performance ratings for teachers and principals in Colorado shows local school districts with top-performing students in general have more teachers ranked as "highly effective."

Colorado school weapons bill advances over objections it will cause gun violence

*The Denver Post - February 4, 2017*

A measure allowing county sheriffs to train armed teachers, principals and other school personnel advanced Friday in the state Senate over objections it will just invite more gun violence in Colorado's schools.

New District 20 charter school wins approval if it hits enrollment goal in March

*The Gazette - February 3, 2017*

Persistence has paid off for organizers of a proposed charter school in Academy School District 20.

Pueblo charter school expands, due to popular demand

*KOAA News 5 - February 3, 2017*

With three D60 schools facing the possibility of being turned into a charter next year, we've gotten a lot of questions this week on what exactly charter school is.

Peak to Peak Charter, Boulder High slated for first Colorado High School Ethics Bowl

*Daily Camera - February 3, 2017*

Karen Amidon, a teacher at Lafayette's Peak to Peak Charter School, started a high school ethics bowl team last year, only to find that Colorado didn't have any other teams or a regional competition.

## 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 should receive same funding as Colorado's other public schools

*The Denver Post - February 8, 2017*

The problem, however, is that the situation is even worse for the nearly 115,000 Colorado children who attend charter public schools. Through no fault of their own, their public educations are being funded at 20 percent less than other students in the state.

### Charter School Enrollment Surges Past 3 Million, But It's Still Not Enough to Meet Parent Demand

*Education Post - February 7, 2017*

"To people who believe that education can transform lives, charters are schools that families choose to help their child reach their unique potential." I've recently found myself repeating this description of charter schools a lot-often in conversations with friends and acquaintances who are hearing about these unique public schools for the first time.

### National Alliance Statement on the Confirmation of Betsy DeVos

*National Alliance For Public Charter Schools - February 7, 2017*

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools today released the following statement on the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as U.S. Secretary of Education: "The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools congratulates Betsy DeVos on her successful confirmation as the new U.S. Secretary of Education.

### Liberty Common Schools Hosts 2nd Annual Festival Of Ideas

*Liberty Common Schools - February 6, 2017*

On Saturday, February 11, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Liberty Common Schools will host its Second Annual Festival of Ideas (FOI). The event is free and open to the public. Attendance at last year's inaugural event topped 350, prompting organizers to expand the program to a full day schedule.

### **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**

### **Family, School, and Community Partnering High Impact Strategies: Communicating and Designing Homework "Two-Way"**

*The Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit*

**Date:** Monday, February 13 - Monday, February 27

**Location:** Online via Moodle

**Cost:** Various Credit Options: Adams State University (for a fee) or Continuing Education Hours (free of charge) or Auditing (free of charge)

**Description:** This course provides information, resources, and skills in developing effective reciprocal communication and homework practices, which can improve

student achievement. Application to site or situation is a focus.

**Target Audience:** Preschool - Grade 12 General and Special Educators, Counselors, Related Service Providers, Higher Education Faculty

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

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

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, February 13

**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, February 10.

### **2017 Colorado Core Knowledge Network Conference**

*Hosted by Swallows Charter Academy*

**Date:** Friday, February 17

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Swallows Charter Academy, 278 S. McCulloch Blvd., Pueblo West

**Cost:** \$25 per person before December 2 /\$30 per person after December 2

**Description:** Make a plan to join us for a day of learning and networking!

- Presentations by teachers from across the state
- Round table sessions for teachers and administrators
- Networking opportunities to meet other teachers and administrators

**Registration:** [Click here](#) to download the event registration form, view the event flier, and learn more about this event. Space is limited to 450 attendees. Contact Dr. Cindy Compton with questions at [ccompton@district70.org](mailto:ccompton@district70.org).

### **ReImagine Your Resources for Charter Schools**

*Hosted by RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching)*

**Date:** Wednesday, February 22

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** RAFT, 3827 Steele Street, Unit C, Denver

**Cost:** Free (wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided)

Description: Join RAFT for a celebratory evening to learn about Resource Area for Teaching and their professional development opportunities! You'll experience RAFT first-hand through:

- A Q&A session with a panel of charter school educators and administrators
- A tour of RAFT's facility
- Visiting action stations featuring content-rich, problem-solving activities
- Networking

**Panelists:** Kate Sneed from RiseUp Academy, Heather Collins from Downtown Denver Expeditionary School and Keith Ouweneel from Crown Point Academy

**Registration:** [Click here to view invite and RSVP.](#)

### **2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference Empowering Tomorrow's Superheroes**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Thursday, February 23 - Friday, February 24

**Location:** Omni Interlocken Resort, 500 Interlocken Boulevard, Broomfield

**Description:** 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.

After attending the Conference, you will feel:

- **Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound** thanks to knowledge from over 60 breakout sessions.
- **More powerful than a locomotive** with your new network of over 800 charter professionals and experts.
- **Faster than the speed of light** and ready to empower Tomorrow's Superheroes.

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

### **Banning Lewis Ranch Academy Boots and Lace Barn Party**

*Hosted by the BLRA Foundation*

**Date:** Friday, February 24

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

**Location:** Wedgewood at Black Forest, 12375 Black Forest Road, Colorado Springs

**Cost:** Friends of BLRA: \$75; Table Sponsors: \$1,500

**Description:** Banning Lewis Ranch Academy is celebrating 10 years of academic excellence. We hope that you will be apart of our special evening. Dinner, drinks (adult beverages), and dancing will be included in your ticket purchase. This event will be loaded with surprises for a very non-traditional evening of fundraising. The rustic barn themed evening will be held at the Wedgewood at Black Forest. The celebration will benefit the BLRA Foundation, proceeds going to the opening of Banning Lewis Preparatory in Fall of 2017.

**Tickets:** [Purchase here, limited space.](#)

### **Governance Webinars: Recruitment and Oversight**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Charter Board Partners*

**Date:** Thursday, March 2

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** The Charter Board Partners and the Colorado League of Charter schools would like to present you with an opportunity to view governance webinars relating to oversight of a governance board and recruitment of governance board members. You will have the ability to view the webinars at your convenience as they are both recorded for review. We will be offering a conference call should you have any questions after viewing the webinar(s). The call will occur on Thursday, March 2 (see instructions below) from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Please feel free to call in to receive guidance and support.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, March 1.

On Thursday, March 2 between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM, feel free to call in to the conference line to ask any questions you may have:

1-800-977-8002

Participant code: 577658#

### **Core Knowledge and Classical School Job Fair**

*Hosted by Vanguard Classical School*

**Date:** Saturday, March 4

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Vanguard Classical School, East Campus, 17101 E. Ohio Drive, Aurora

**Audience:** Core Knowledge and/or Classical Education Teacher Candidates, School Leaders and Vendors

**Description:** Vanguard Classical will be hosting an Educators' Job Fair targeting candidates interested in working for Core Knowledge and/or Classical Schools in our state. Candidates will have the opportunity to meet school representatives and administrators from up to 24 Core Knowledge and/or Classical Charter Schools in Colorado.

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

### **Family-School Partnering at the Secondary Level**

*The Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit*

**Date:** Monday, March 6 - Monday, April 17

**Location:** Online via Moodle

**Cost:** Various Credit Options: Adams State University (for a fee) or Continuing Education Hours (free of charge) or Auditing (free of charge)

**Description:** This course includes the essential components of the general Multi-Tiered Family, School, and Community Partnering course, but has a clear emphasis on partnering issues in middle and high school. Topics include dropout prevention, post-secondary and workforce readiness, and the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

**Target Audience:** All Stakeholders: Secondary General and Special Educators, Family and Community Members, Counselors, Related Service Providers, Higher Education Faculty

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

### **Multi-Tiered Family, School, and Community Partnering**

*The Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit*

**Date:** Monday, March 6 - Monday, April 17

**Location:** Online via Moodle

**Cost:** Various Credit Options: Adams State University (for a fee) or Continuing Education Hours (free of charge) or Auditing (free of charge)

**Description:** This course builds upon the strong research base supporting the importance of family-school partnerships in student learning. Topics will include integration of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and the National Standards for Family-School

Partnerships (PTA, 2008). Participants can adapt specific assignments and tools to meet their learning needs.

**Target Audience:** All Stakeholders: Educators, Family and Community Members, Related Service Providers, School Board Members, Advocates, Higher Education Faculty

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

### **PowerScheduler: Preparing your Master Schedule**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, March 6

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$100 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$150 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

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

**Description:** Get an in-depth look at the Load Only process in PowerScheduler. Attendees will: 1) learn how to build a master schedule (already prepared, but needs to be entered into PowerSchool), 2) learn how to prepare Student and Teacher Information, 3) learn how to collect/enter Student Request, 4) hear about available constraint options and how they affect the ability to load students, 5) hear about the actual Load process, various reports available, and follow up steps needed to finalize scheduling. This will be a hands-on workshop that will allow attendees to follow each step in their own system and leave with the skills and tools needed to complete their school's scheduling process.

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

**Note:** Please note that lunch is not provided but time is allotted and there are many options within walking distance.

#### **What to Bring:**

- A master schedule with a few student records
- A copy of your bell schedule if it is not included on your Master Schedule
- Any constraints you may have (this student can't be with that student, or this teacher can't teach that student).

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, March 1.

### **CIVA Charter High School 20th Anniversary Celebration & Silent Auction**

**Date:** Thursday, March 9

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

**Location:** Stargazers Theater & Event Center, 10 Parkside Drive, Colorado Springs

**Cost:** \$20 per person | \$30 VIP

**Description:** Featuring musical performances by Austin Young Band, Roma Ransom and CIVA Ravens.

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

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

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