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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



February 17, 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 - Online Registration Closes Today!**

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.](#)** Online registration closes today! Register at [www.cocharterconference.org](http://www.cocharterconference.org)

**Give Your Feedback about ESSA in Colorado**

In order to demonstrate that Colorado meets the requirements of ESSA (The Every Student Succeeds Act) and to access the funding allocated to the state, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) must submit a plan to the United States Department of Education for approval. Fundamental to the requirements of the ESSA plan, is that the department engage in meaningful consultation with a broad range of education stakeholders in developing the plan and, once a draft of the plan has been completed, to make the plan available for public comment. [Please click here to learn more.](#)

**Free Furniture, Fixtures, Office & Janitorial Supplies**

Education Facility Solutions has a client that is acquiring the former Sports Authority

Corporate Headquarters located at Hampden and Santa Fe in Englewood. The client is donating all desired items to Colorado's education community. Items include: furniture, fixtures, equipment, office and janitorial supplies, technology and more! Stop by after the Colorado Charter Schools Conference and stock up (or claim your items for later pickup).

When: Friday, February 24 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Where: 1050 W. Hampden, Englewood (South Building)

Details: School reps can walk through to review inventory and determine wants/needs. A future date will be arranged to pick up desired items. If you are interested in attending the Open House, please email Dustin Jones at [djones@efsk12.com](mailto:djones@efsk12.com).

### **Items For Sale**

West Ridge Academy in Greeley has some tables and chairs they'd like to sell. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to view photos. If interested, please contact Russ Spicer at 970-214-4001 or [rspicer@wrak8.org](mailto:rspicer@wrak8.org) if interested.

### **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).

## **News Articles**

### Colorado Early Colleges to move to former Advanced Energy Building

*BizWest - February 16, 2017*

Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins, a sixth- through 12th-grade charter school that is reporting increased enrollment, is in the process of remodeling the former Advanced Energy Industries Inc. building on Innovation Drive in Fort Collins, where it will move its high school in August.

### Charter school funding bill clears Senate Education Committee

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 15, 2017*

A bill that would require school districts to equally share money from local tax increases with charter schools cleared its first legislative hurdle Wednesday.

### Charter school funding divides opinion, not strictly by party, in legislature

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - February 15, 2017*

As the debate over equitable funding for charter schools continued on Wednesday in the legislature, political lines became unclear, as Democrats picked up the torch for local control.

### Marijuana tax money going to bully prevention program

*Fox 31 Denver - February 15, 2017*

Grant money from the Department of Education and the tax on marijuana is going to help fight bullying. New America School will receive a \$40,000 grant the first year. In Thornton, K-12 Westgate Community School will get \$70,000 to help battle bullying.

### Small Colorado Springs charter high school wins Distinguished Improvement Award

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - February 15, 2017*

Changing the image of a school isn't easy, but CIVA Charter High School has done it.

The 20-year-old charter school in Colorado Springs School District 11 has reinforced its identity as a college-preparatory and arts-focused school, and boosted students' test scores enough to earn The Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award.

Denver Public Schools is already looking to overhaul how it closes schools - and these schools could meet that fate

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 14, 2017*

Denver Public Schools is considering major changes to its year-old school closure policy - changes that could result in more of the city's lowest performing schools being shuttered.

Colorado Senate Republicans say they don't want to cut funding to school to pay for roads

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 13, 2017*

School funding will not suffer at the expense of fixing the state's troubled roads, Senate Majority Leader Chris Holbert said Monday.

Proposed bill that has governor's blessing would drop PARCC from Colorado high schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 13, 2017*

Colorado high school freshmen no longer would be required to take the state's controversial standardized English and math tests under a bipartisan bill that has the governor's support.

Parent group opposes Cherry Creek School District proposal to change start times

*The Denver Post - February 13, 2017*

Cherry Creek School District officials made their case Monday night for delaying start times in the district's schools, saying it would lead to higher academic achievement and healthier, safer students.

Charter schools band together to advocate major expansion in Denver Public Schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 11, 2017*

Leaders of four charter school networks delivered an open letter to Denver Public Schools leadership Friday asking the district to let them ramp up the opening of new schools in the coming years to help meet ambitious goals to lift the quality of city schools.

Contentious Education Bill Has Republican & Democrat Sponsors

*Denver CBS4 - February 11, 2017*

There's a push to level the playing field for charter schools in Colorado when it comes to funding.

Senate Bill would equalize funding for charter schools

*The Complete Colorado - February 10, 2017*

Everyone who spoke was passionate on their position. Those for the bill were mostly charter school administrators, associations and parents, while opponents were mostly school boards and their lobbyists, superintendents, teachers' unions and other education associations.

Colorado's education department has a plan. And they want to know what you think about it.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 10, 2017*

After months of town halls, meetings and debate, the Colorado education department

on Friday released a draft of a plan detailing how it would use federal funds to measure and improve its lowest performing schools, train teachers and support English language learners.

## 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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Parents Can't Wait For Traditional Schools To Fix Themselves. That's Why We Choose Charters.

Huffington Post - February 15, 2017

While I understand the rules of the traditional public education system - go to the nearest school, no matter how bad it is, and no matter what kind of trouble it might lead to - I don't agree with them. I believe every parent should have the right to expect more and to seek out the right school for their children, just as mine did. And just as I would later do for my children.

EDITORIAL: Give Colorado's neediest kids a chance to succeed right now

The Colorado Springs Gazette - February 14, 2017

What is the best way to improve Colorado's lowest-performing schools? Ask the "experts" and you'll likely get as many different answers as there are seats at Coors Field.

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

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.](#) **Online registration closes today!**

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#

Liberty Common School Spring Gala 2017 - Annual Fundraising Social Event

Hosted by Liberty Common School

Date: Friday, March 3

Time: 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Location: The Hilton, 425 W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins

Description: Join Liberty Common School for a whimsical, Alice in Wonderland inspired gathering, bringing the families and community together for a sensational show of support for Liberty Common School. Enjoy dinner and cocktails with friends while discovering some fabulous treasures to take home.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, February 24.

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.](#)

Business Manager Network Meeting

A CDE Schools of Choice event hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, March 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: TBD

Cost: \$35 per person. CCSP grantees and their representatives are free. Use the code CCSPFREE when registering.

Description: These meetings 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.

Agenda: Coming soon.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, March 7.

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

Description: This is the largest teacher job fair in Colorado exclusively for charter schools and presents an excellent opportunity for schools and teaching candidates to participate in face-to-face interviews and discuss career opportunities. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and schools come from Colorado and surrounding states. Over 50 charter schools and 400 teacher candidates attend this annual event.

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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