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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
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focus on achievement



February 3, 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)

### **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 [cocompton@district70.org](mailto:cocompton@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.](#)

### **NEPC Launches Third Year of Schools of Opportunity Recognition Project: Public High Schools Encouraged to Apply**

The [2017 Schools of Opportunity application](#) cycle recently launched. Building on the success of the past two years, the National Education Policy Center at CU Boulder will again recognize public high schools that are creating remarkable opportunities to learn for all their students. The application deadline is May 1. Schools that apply are asked to demonstrate how they work to close opportunity gaps across a range of key areas. The NEPC derived this set of opportunity measures from the expertise shared by top researchers in *Closing the Opportunity Gap*, the 2013 book published by Oxford University Press. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## **News Articles**

### [Denver Public Schools requests new programs to replace two low-performing elementary schools](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 2, 2017*

Because of slowing enrollment growth, the district isn't soliciting any other new charter or district-run schools as part of its annual Call for New Quality Schools this year. The call for restart programs for Greenlee and Amesse are the only requests.

### [Do Colorado Schools Get The Money They Need? Let's Look At Two Neighboring Districts](#)

*Colorado Public Radio - February 2, 2017*

The Denver suburb of Sheridan is easy to miss. It's only 2.3 square miles. The school district is so small, there are only four schools.

### [Daniels Fund gives \\$58.8 million in grants and scholarships](#)

*Journal-Advocate - February 2, 2017*

The Daniels Fund announced Tuesday that it distributed \$58.8 million in grants and scholarships in 2016. This brings the total to more than \$700 million in grants and scholarships distributed since the Daniels Fund's inception in 2000.

### Hickenlooper names Kim Hunter Reed to head higher education department

*The Colorado Statesman - February 1, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed former Obama administration official Kim Hunter Reed as the executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, his office announced Wednesday. She takes office Feb. 15.

### Which Colorado school districts are outshining the rest - and which are falling behind? New report seeks answers

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 1, 2017*

Denver charter school posted the highest average ACT scores for black students in the state last year. Multiracial students in the Roaring Fork school district showed more academic growth on state tests than their white peers.

### Meet the Colorado Republicans who want to reclaim their party's education reform agenda

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 31, 2017*

A small group of well-established Colorado Republicans are aiming to make education reform a top priority for the GOP again.

### Bill to ban corporal punishment in schools get first approval from Colorado House

*Chalkbeat Colorado - January 30, 2017*

Colorado's House of Representatives gave initial approval Monday to a bill that would ban corporal punishment in public schools and day care centers that receive state funds.

### Jeffco board moves forward with superintendent search

*Arvada Press - January 30, 2017*

The Jefferson County School Board of Education has taken the next step in its search for a new superintendent.

### Englewood charter school effort comes to an end

*Englewood Herald - January 30, 2017*

A five-year effort to open a charter school in the Englewood area came to an end recently when the members of the Colorado Charter School Institute Board of Directors voted to deny TriCity Academy's application for a charter.

### Mountain View Core Knowledge School mulls going to four-day week schedule

*Daily Record Education - January 30, 2017*

As parents filled the library at Mountain View Core Knowledge School on Monday, principal Karen Sartori passed out a map of Colorado school districts that are on four-day school weeks.

### Colorado celebrates school choice week

*The Complete Colorado - January 27, 2017*

Nearly 1,000 students, teachers, parents, and other supporters braved the cold weather Thursday to rally on the west steps of the Colorado Capitol in a show of support for school choice.

### Mountain View Core Knowledge School set to discuss potential for new charter high school, four-day week

*Daily Record - January 27, 2017*

Prompted by parents, Mountain View Core Knowledge School is looking into opening a charter high school and moving to a four-day school week.

## 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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Number of Students Attending Charter Schools Surpasses 3 Million

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - February 1, 2017

This year, for the first time, the number of students who attend charter public schools is estimated to have surpassed 3 million. In fact, it's closer to 3.1 million. This means that over 200,000 more children are attending charter schools this school year than attended last year and, given that the federal government estimates a total change in public school enrollment of just over 100,000 students, it also means that more parents are making the move to charter schools. In just the last decade, charter school enrollment has nearly tripled - from 1.2 million students in 2006-07 to 3.1 million this year.

Charter School Legislation: What to watch for in 2017

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - February 1, 2017

As state legislative sessions begin across the country, many bills are expected to be introduced regarding charter public schools. While some of these bills will focus on how to expand the number of high-quality charter school options available, a good number will also likely be geared toward capping charter school growth, cutting charter school funding and re-regulating charter schools. Based upon the trends in charter school policy over the past several years, here are some specific things to watch for in 2017.

Bradford: Dangerous for Charter Advocates to Embrace Elizabeth Warren and Trash School Vouchers

The 74 - January 30, 2017

Gary Larson's famous comic strip *The Far Side* was as insightful as it was hilarious. But given the recent consternation in the education reform movement, there is one of his best that comes to mind.

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

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 per person and \$50 for each additional | Non-Members: \$100 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee

Description: School leaders (principals, executive directors, etc.) are ultimately responsible for the operation and compliance of special education programming in their schools. Therefore, it is essential that school leaders, in addition to special education teachers/coordinators, understand the IDEA requirements for special education services and make sure their school is in compliance with these requirements. This workshop is designed to equip school leaders with 8 critical strategies for managing special education compliance.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, February 3.

Webinar: Revised NWEA Growth "Norms" for Alternative Students and Schools

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: Free

Description: Dr. Jody Ernst, lead author of the first-ever study of alternative growth norms using NWEA (2009), will present revised student-level growth "norms" for NWEA's Reading, Mathematics, and Language Usage Assessments, using data from over 300 alternative education campuses (AEC) across the country. In addition, school-level growth "norms", by grade level, will be presented as well as a national percentile rank distribution of school RIT growth. Dr. Ernst will discuss how each set of norms can be used by alternative schools and how the data from this research will inform how Colorado will use NWEA metrics for accountability in the future.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will become familiar with:

- Updated student growth norms for high-risk students.
- Average school-level growth for AEC.
- The results of rank percentile distributions of AEC school-level growth and the potential for use in Colorado AEC School Performance Frameworks in the
- future.

Target Audience: AEC School Principals, Teachers, Assessment and Curriculum Staff

Presenter(s): Dr. Jody Ernst, Vice President, Research and Policy Analytics, Momentum Strategy and Research

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, February 7. Please register using a valid email address and the URL for the webinar will be sent to you before February 8.

PowerSchool: Report-Building Tools

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, February 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$100 for one person and \$25 for each additional

attendee.

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

Description: The three basic PowerSchool report-building tools (Form Letter, Report Card or Object Report) can be used to create unlimited customized forms such as labels, class lists, report cards, progress reports, certificates, enrollment forms, etc. This hands-on workshop will help you decide which tool is the best choice for various needs, and then walk you through the basic features and functions of each. Participants will create reports using each tool. (Please note: we will not cover ReportWorks in this workshop.)

What to Bring: Your computer, admin log-in account that allowed access to Report Setup on a PowerSchool server.

Audience: Geared toward those who create standardized forms and letters for their schools.

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

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, February 7. Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

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.

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.](#)

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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