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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



March 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**

**2017 Jared Polis Foundation Teacher Recognition Awards: Deadline April 14**

Nominate a teacher for the 2017 Jared Polis Foundation Teacher Recognition Awards. Each year, since 2002, the foundation has honored 10 hardworking, effective and caring Colorado public school teachers (PreK-12) during the first week of May (National Teacher Appreciation week). Anyone can nominate a teacher! In the past, we've had student, colleague, staff, parent, and principal nominators. [Click here to learn more and read JPF's new guidelines for the 2017 nominations!](#)

**Volunteer Opportunities - RMACAC Denver Spring College Fair**

The 2017 RMACAC Denver Spring College Fair will be on Sunday, March 19th at the University of Denver. This is a great opportunity for Colorado Council and RMACAC representatives to volunteer and spend a fun day with students and their families. The fair will take place between 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm and there are several shifts available throughout the day from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Without volunteers, this program would not be possible. We would greatly appreciate any time that you are able to spend helping out! Please complete this survey <https://goo.gl/forms/3sVilpnsXWsSBrJE2> if you are interested in volunteering.

Contact Joanna Peters (petersj@asd20.org) with any questions.

### **Provide Your Feedback on the Colorado Academic Standards!**

CDE has developed an online standards review system to enable all Coloradans to provide specific feedback on each and every expectation within all 10 content areas of the Colorado Academic Standards. This is your chance to provide feedback directly to the committees that will be making recommendations for revisions to the standards. ***This is a first-of-its-kind opportunity that will only be available until April 30, 2017.***

More information about the standards review and revision process and the online standards feedback system can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casreview>

Go directly to the online standards feedback system: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/costandardsreview/login>

### **Rolling Computer Chairs for Sale - \$5 Each**

Aurora Academy has black padded rolling computer chairs in good shape available for \$5.00 each. They have approximately 60 chairs, selling in increments of 10 each only. Please contact Steve Snyder at [ssnyder@academy.org](mailto:ssnyder@academy.org) for more information. [Click here to view a photo.](#)

### **Modular Classroom for Sale**

North Star Academy Charter School in Parker is selling a modular classroom. It was built in 1996 and they've have had it since 2008. It's in good condition and features include: 1,792 square feet, two classrooms (no restroom), extra windows, extra sound proofing. It includes the ramp and stairs in the price. The modular classroom is selling for \$20,000 OBO. If interested, please contact Mary Edwards at [medwards@nstaracademy.org](mailto:medwards@nstaracademy.org). [Click here to view photo.](#)

### **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.

## **News Articles**

[Colorado schools would fare slightly better under plan approved by budget committee](#)  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 9, 2017*

Colorado schools would fare slightly better than expected next school year under a budget approved Thursday by a key legislative committee, although the prospect of balancing the larger state budget with this proposal for education was described as "grim."

[What the heck is the Colorado school accountability clock? \(And 14 other questions you might ask.\)](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 9, 2017*

On Thursday, Colorado's accountability clock chimes for a dozen schools and five school districts that have failed to show enough academic improvement on state tests during the last seven years.

[How Colorado education officials have quietly helped struggling schools improve](#)  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 8, 2017*

Wary of repeating past mistakes, Colorado education department officials have spent the last year and \$650,000 in federal tax money helping a group of struggling schools that face state-ordered changes turn things around.

[If DSST students do their part, CU Denver will guarantee their admission](#)

### *Chalkbeat Colorado - March 8, 2017*

Students from Denver-based charter school network DSST will get a leg up on gaining admission to the University of Colorado Denver under a partnership announced Tuesday.

The state tried to save one Colorado school before and failed. Now it is about to try again - with 12.

### *Chalkbeat Colorado - March 7, 2017*

Colorado's State Board of Education faced an unprecedented decision. A neighborhood school serving mostly black and Latino students had been failing for too long. Despite an all-out effort to boost test scores - even the mayor tutored kids on the weekends - the needle hadn't moved enough.

How the governor and music heavy hitters plan to make sure every Colorado kid has access to an instrument and instruction

### *The Denver Post - March 7, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper smiled wide as he watched a video of 2-year-old Judah Alexander Slade air-drumming to his father's band at Red Rocks Amphitheatre last summer.

Colorado juniors face new, revamped college exam in SAT after state dumps rival ACT

### *The Denver Post - March 7, 2017*

Colorado's 54,000 high school juniors this spring will take the revamped and more relevant SAT, a new statewide assessment of their academic skills that doubles as a college entrance exam.

History Isn't Just Facts And Dates, At This DougCo STEM School It's Talking Robots

### *Colorado Public Radio - March 7, 2017*

Students designed and programmed the artificial intelligence of the Kaiser using bot software from api.ai. He was designed to react to questions with different levels of emotion and temperament. You "either get closer to declaring war if you anger him, or getting closer to declaring peace if you try to pacify him," says sophomore Michal Bodzianowski, who led the design team.

Students 'bring back the dead' in history class

### *9News - March 6, 2017*

In Owen Cegielski's sophomore history class, he wanted to do something creative at the Stem School and Academy in Highlands Ranch.

Congressman Jared Polis is more worried about Congress than Betsy DeVos. Here's why.

### *Chalkbeat Colorado - March 6, 2017*

Colorado Congressman Jared Polis worries more about Congress creating bad education policy than about U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos enacting it.

Aspen Community School is head of the class

### *The Aspen Times - March 4, 2017*

The No. 1 middle school in Colorado based on overall performance on standardized tests is located right in Aspen's backyard, according to a website that crunches state data.

## **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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[Aurora charter public school students deserve equal funding](#)

Aurora Sentinel - March 9, 2017

I'm a taxpayer and a parent. When taxpayers go to the ballot and agree to support their local school district through a mill levy override (MLO), there's a reasonable expectation that this money will be shared equally with all schools - and all students - in the community.

[Colorado charter schools serve all, deserve equal funding](#)

Fort Collins Coloradoan - March 9, 2017

Fairness in public education is about the relationship between individual students, not the relationship between school buildings, political districts, school employees or states.

[Charter schools should be funded equally](#)

Fort Collins Coloradoan - March 9, 2017

Charter public schools are not funded fairly in Colorado. This is a problem that has long deserved the attention of our state legislators.

[Ascent Classical Academy Applying to Become a Douglas County K-12 Charter School](#)

Ascent Classical Academy - March 7, 2017

Douglas County parents are working toward a new public charter school to meet demand for high-quality educational options in the district.

[Back Senate Bill 61 to rightly provide equitable funding](#)

The Colorado Springs Gazette - March 3, 2017

Educators, education advocates and politicians frequently describe public education reform as the civil rights issue of our time.

[EDITORIAL: Support bill to even the education playing field](#)

The Colorado Springs Gazette - March 3, 2017

Colorado long has been a trailblazer in advancing one of the most important innovations ever to benefit public education: charter schools.

[Skyview Academy Students Earn Accolades At Denver Metro Regional Science And Engineering Fair](#)

Skyview Academy - March 3, 2017

SkyView Academy's high school program, now in its 5th year, continues to bring fierce competition to the annual Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair (DMRSEF), which was held at the University of Colorado Denver February 17-18.

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

Foundations of Empowered Teacher Leadership

Hosted by Cooperative Community Schools

Date: Saturday, March 11

Time: 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Green Valley Ranch Library, 4856 Andes Court, Denver

Cost: Free

Audience: Northeast Denver Educators

Note: Refreshments will be served and childcare will be provided.

Description: Come to this workshop for inspiring, interactive, powerful learning around teacher-powered structures. Attendees will leave with tangible ideas to put into practice at their school and knowledge on how to keep students at the center of all your decision-making! Roya Brown, Executive Director of Cooperative Community Schools and Deborah L. Sims-Fard, Executive Director of Justina Ford STEM Institute, are the workshop facilitators and a panel of experts on teacher leadership will be present.

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

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.](#)

Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan Step 6 (Webinar 5 of 5)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, March 24

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Cost: Free

Description: The Safe Schools Act for Colorado can be read in C.R.S. 22-32-109.1: <http://schoolsafetysummit.org/safe-schools/> The Act requires all schools, including charter public schools, to adopt and implement a safe school plan. This School Safety Plan webinar series focuses on subsection (4) of the Act and will lead each participating charter public school through a step-by-step process to build and complete their school-specific plan by June 30, 2017. This webinar series (5 webinars) will help schools establish a school response framework consisting of policies described in subsection (4) of the Act. By satisfying the requirements of subsection (4), a school shall be in compliance with the national incident management system, referred to in this subsection (4) as "NIMS", developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, March 22.

Lunch & Learn: Increase Your College Student Stats with these Pros

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, April 4

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cost: Free

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

Description: Get your students successfully into college with the power of these 2 innovative tools:

Story2College: Help students conquer college admission essays all in one place.

Mountain Financial: Show students how to afford/pay for the college of their choice.

Story2College: Story2College helps students tap into the power of storytelling using a proven step-by-step process to transform typical essays into authentic college admission essays. They learn how to select topics, build structure and form those personal connections with readers that increase acceptance rates.

Mountain Financial: Give your students (and their parents) the tools they need to reduce the cost of the college education... even at their college of choice.

The Mountain Financial team focuses on wealth creation by uncovering and capturing money that many parents are losing unknowingly and unnecessarily.

Your students/parents will gain full control of their funds and learn how to work directly with colleges to reduce their costs.

Join us on April 4th for live presentations and demos from each of these providers.

You'll get a great lunch, too.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, March 31.

Charter School Boot Camp

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice and the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, April 5, Thursday, April 6, and Friday, April 7

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Location: Independence Institute, 727 E. 16th Avenue, Denver

Cost: \$100 per attendee (cost includes all three days)

Description: The grand bargain for charter public schools is accountability in exchange for autonomy. If charter planning teams are going to open and operate a quality school that is accountable to their stakeholders and has the autonomy to self-govern, they have to understand the critical elements of starting a charter school well before they receive a charter or apply for the CCSP (Colorado Charter School Program) grant.

This training is designed to support planning teams, at all stages of application writing, in gaining a clear picture of the realities of opening and operating a school, as well as, to support teams in finding the gaps within their plan and team. This three-day workshop looks at essential aspects of developing a charter school application, calling on expert presenters and providing supplemental resources to assist the charter school development team. Planning teams will leave the training with information, strategies and resources necessary to develop a strong application that will ultimately lay the foundation for a quality charter school.

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

Education Job Fair

Hosted by Lotus School for Excellence

Date: Saturday, April 8

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

Description: Discover your future educators with the LSE Education Job Fair on April 8 in Aurora. With the capabilities to interview on site, gather resumes from many candidates and network with schools across the state and beyond, this is a job fair you do not want to miss!

Registration: Registration is required. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Charter School Advocacy Day

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, April 13

Time: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Wells Fargo Center, 1700 Lincoln Street, Denver & Colorado State Capitol Building

Cost: Free

Description: Attend this event to learn about the Colorado legislative process, garner helpful tips about effective advocacy, understand current education bills with impacts on charter schools, visit and tour the State Capitol, meet elected officials and share your story about the importance of charter public schools.

In addition to parents and other charter advocates, we encourage staff and students to get involved in this day, too! After all, who makes a better advocate than the students currently attending charter public schools? We encourage middle school and high school teachers and a small group (10 maximum) of their students to participate. Travel subsidies are available on a first-come, first-served basis! Questions? Contact Dan Schaller at dschaller@coloradoleague.org.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, March 17.

Immersed in Education Breakfast

Hosted by the Denver Language School

Date: Thursday, April 20

Time: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Location: Shift Workspace, 1001 Bannock Street, Denver

Cost: Free

Note: Complimentary breakfast provided

Description: The Denver Language School (DLS) is Denver's only full-language immersion K-8 charter school. It opened in 2010 and has grown from a small K-2 charter

school to a phenomenal K-8 program in just seven short years. They are on a mission to provide children with meaningful global education that will help them develop the skills they need for the 21st century. Children in full-language immersion programs perform better academically, have advanced proficiency in a second language, and enjoy all the brain benefits that come with learning a second language at a young age.

Come Learn More About Language Immersion Education and Its Importance

DLS will host its first Immersed in Education Breakfast. At this complimentary breakfast, you will learn more about full-language immersion, meet the DLS administrative staff, and have a chance to speak with some of their students. While the breakfast is complimentary, you will have the opportunity to make a financial contribution to fund some of the unique programs the school offers to the more than 700 students currently enrolled. If you're not able to join, DLS encourages you to make an online donation through www.denverlanguageschool.org.

Registration: Please contact Camilla Modesitt, Development Director, at 303-557-0852 or camilla@denverlanguageschool.org if you plan on attending.

PowerSchool: Preparing for End of Year (EOY) Process

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, April 21

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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

Non-Members: \$125 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

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

Description: The End of Year (EOY) process is used to close out the current school year and roll your students over to the grade level and school that each will be attending during the upcoming school year. This should take place after the school year is finished, and all final grades have been permanently stored. This session will cover the steps necessary to prepare for EOY, the reports to be printed before running EOY, and how to check settings for the new year after running the process. Participants will receive checklists to help them in the process.

Trainer: TC Travis, Director of Technology/District Assessment Coordinator, Wray School District

Prerequisites: General PowerSchool Navigation Skills; Admin log-in access

Audience: Registrar, Secretary, PS System Admin, Submissions Coordinator

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, April 17. Event contingent on a minimum of 10 attendees.

PowerSchool: Edcamp DoPower

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools, Cherry Creek School District #5, and Summit School District

Date: Friday, April 28

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: 14188 East Briarwood Avenue, Centennial

Cost: Free

Audience: Users of PowerSchool including registrars, secretaries, teachers, admin and more!

What to Bring: Nothing more than questions you would like to ask your colleagues in other districts. You may benefit from having an internet-connected device.

Description: You and your team are invited to our FREE Edcamp for PowerSchool Users. This unconference uses the protocol inspired by the Barcamp model in which participants first identify what they would like to learn from their colleagues. Participants then network around topics they would like to learn and teach each other! This EdCamp will be focused on PowerSchool topics. This high energy event will motivate you to get out and DO!

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

2017 National Charter Schools Conference

Hosted by National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Date: June 11 - 14, 2017

Location: Washington DC

Description: The National Charter Schools Conference delivers exceptional learning and networking opportunities for every participant. With inspirational keynote speakers, more than 130 engaging breakout sessions and unique networking events, this national event has something for everyone.

Registration: [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Independent Charter School Symposium in New York

Hosted by The Coalition of Community Charter Schools

Dates: Thursday, October 12 - Friday, October 13

Location: Long Island City, New York

Cost: \$399 for Early Birds

Description: C3S is proud to host the first-ever [Independent Charter School](#)

Symposium (ICSS) in NYC's hottest new spot- Long Island City. This exciting event will convene school leaders, social visionaries and policy-makers from across the country in a groundbreaking, two-day conference to articulate a collective vision for the direction of the charter movement and all of public education.

Registration: Early Bird Registration [HERE](#).

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

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