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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



March 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**

**Speak Up: Colorado Charter School Students are Not Worth Less!**

Senate Bill 61, which would provide charter public school students with an equal share of local dollars (mill levy override dollars), passed the Senate earlier this week with strong bipartisan support. However, rumor has it that this bill may not even get a fair hearing in the House of Representatives. You heard us right - the bill may very well be sent to what is known as the "kill committee," which would mean it would die without even a fair hearing. Together we can stop this - but your State Reps MUST hear from you today! [Click here to take action!](#)

**Healthy School Champions 2017**

The [Healthy School Champions Program](#) recognizes Colorado schools for their success at creating a healthy school environment, implementing effective school health efforts and demonstrating how they comprehensively address health and wellness while embedding it in their culture and systems. Congratulations to the charters school who were named 2017 Healthy School Champions: 1. *Silver Award: \$2500 - New Legacy Charter School, Charter School Institute* 2. *Excellence Award: \$500 - Academy 360, Denver County 1* 3. *Promising School Award: \$300 - Swallows Charter Academy, Pueblo County 70*. Congratulations to these healthy schools and keep up the good work!

**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!](#)

### **Play Structure For Sale**

The Denver Language School has a new, never-used 3-bay swing frame for sale for \$2500. All steel construction with a powder coated finish. Frame is made of 3.5" steel tubing. Assembly required. [Click here](#) to view the structure. Please contact Camilla Modesitt for more information at [camilla@denverlanguageschool.org](mailto:camilla@denverlanguageschool.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.

### **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.](#)

## **News Articles**

### [Charters provide ways to match 'philosophical beliefs and values'](#)

*Douglas County News-Press - March 16, 2017*

When it came time to choose a school, she decided on American Academy Charter School in Castle Pines. American Academy offers ability group learning for math, reading and writing. This means students take classes based on skill level rather than all sharing the same classroom by age alone.

### [Are Denver's nationally-known school reforms paying off? New report says yes.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 15, 2017*

Top-to-bottom efforts to reform Denver Public Schools are showing positive results, helping the district post the second highest rates of academic growth among large U.S. districts, a new report says.

### [Denver Public Schools urging overhaul of school closure policy, promising to better engage families](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 15, 2017*

As many as seven low-performing Denver public schools could face closure if the school board approves major revisions to how it decides the fate of struggling schools.

### [Denver Public Schools retooling equity measure, presses forward on scoring schools](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 15, 2017*

Denver Public Schools is moving forward with plans to hold schools accountable through a new measure meant to gauge how well they are educating traditionally underserved students, but not before making changes to address concerns from

principals and other school leaders.

#### The Goal: Charters are 'part of the public school family'

*Douglas County News-Press - March 14, 2017*

"Charter public schools have been in Colorado and Douglas County for nearly 25 years now," Rader said. "They are a valid, important and permanent part of the public school community. And I hope we can get to a point where charter school students are seen as part of the public school family."

#### It's halfway point at Colorado legislature. Here's what matters to Colorado classrooms.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 14, 2017*

Colorado lawmakers are a little past the halfway point for this legislative session and have little to show for the state's public schools.

#### Landmark School gives purpose to students recovering from addiction

*KOAA News 5 - March 13, 2017*

A new charter school in Colorado Springs is trying something new to help students struggling with addiction and saving lives in the process.

#### DeVos Promotes School Choice, Local Control

*U.S. News - March 13, 2017*

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Monday sought to convince public school leaders that school choice and local control are important in education.

#### Corporal punishment bill goes down in Colorado Senate committee

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 13, 2017*

A Republican-controlled state Senate committee Monday killed a bill that would have prohibited corporal punishment in Colorado's public schools and day care centers that receive state funding.

#### When It Comes To School Taxes, Colorado Homeowners Shoulder An Unequal Burden

*Colorado Public Radio - March 13, 2017*

A couple of weeks ago, Chris Powell, a parent of two, got an email from the superintendent of Adams 12 Five Star district. It warned of a possible budget shortfall, between \$8 and \$13 million, which prompted anger and frustration from Powell.

#### Bill to equally fund Colorado charter schools earns first OK from Senate with changes giving districts more time

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 13, 2017*

Colorado senators gave initial support to a bill that would require the state's school districts to equally share voter-approved tax increases with their charter schools, but not before making substantial changes that would ease in the new mandate.

#### Charter school funding bill gaining bipartisan support; Dems get support on amendment

*The Complete Colorado - March 12, 2017*

Second reading of a bill that would equalize local mill levy funding for charter schools was postponed for the second time this week after senators spent nearly two hours debating several amendments to the bill.

#### Windsor Charter Academy students make historic sweep at regional history day competition.

*WindsorNow! - March 11, 2017*

Windsor Charter Academy eighth grade students won many honors at the recent University of Northern Colorado History Day Regional Competition.

District preparing report on charter schools  
*Douglas County News-Press - March 10, 2017*

The Douglas County Board of Education has directed district staff to put together a comprehensive report looking at the impact of charter schools in the district because of community concerns about their effects on the district.

Colorado school nurses could soon delegate over-the-counter drugs  
*The Gazette - March 10, 2017*

You don't need to be a school nurse to hand a kid some ointment. That's the idea behind Senate Bill 33, which allows a professional school nurse to train someone at the school then delegate dispensing authority for over-the-counter medication.

Charter School Board Attends League of Charter Schools' 2017 Conference  
*PagosaDailyPost.com - March 10, 2017*

After finalizing our charter school contract with our authorizer, Archuleta School District 50 JT, five days earlier, we were on our way to the Colorado League of Charter School's annual conference in Broomfield, Colorado, February 22-24.

Denver Public Schools heralds high participation, match rates in choice process for 2017-18

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 10, 2017*

The number of Denver students who participated in this year's school choice process and who were matched to their school of choice stayed about the same as last year, according to data released Friday.

Success Stories: Indian Peaks Charter School / Granby, CO  
*CO Health Links - March 2017*

Creating a place in which employees feel supported, healthy, and satisfied creates a place that welcomes students and families.

## **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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National Alliance Statement on President's FY2018 Budget
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - March 16, 2017

Today, President Trump unveiled his FY2018 budget, which includes a \$168 million increase for charter schools. National Alliance President and CEO Nina Rees released the following statement in response to the president's announcement:

Colorado charter schools deserve equal share of education funds
The Denver Post - March 13, 2017

Charter schools in Colorado often aren't receiving an equal share, or any share, of local tax revenue generated by voter-approved property tax increases that are known as mill-levy overrides.

Across the Street column: School choice in action in Colorado

PostIndependent / Citizen Telegram - March 13, 2017

School choice is a term for K-12 public education options describing a wide array of programs offering students and their families alternatives to those publicly provided schools assigned based on the location of their family residence.

Pueblo students deserve educational options

The Pueblo Chieftain - March 11, 2017

It's no secret that Pueblo City Schools (D60) has struggled to meet the needs of many of its students in recent years.

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

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.

2017 Energy Efficiency Customer Expo

Hosted by Xcel Energy

Date: Tuesday, April 4

Time: 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Denver PPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur St., Denver ([map](#))

Cost: Free for Xcel Energy business customers.

Description: Please join Xcel Energy program managers, engineers and energy efficiency experts as they share best practices, tools and technologies that can help you identify and plan for your 2017 energy efficiency opportunities.

Registration: Space is limited. [Click here to register!](#)

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.](#)

Charter School Teacher Summit

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, May 5

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

Cost: Early Bird (ends April 3) League Members: \$150 | Non-Members: \$175

Regular Rate (after April 3) League Members: \$175 | Non-Members: \$225

Target Audience: Teachers, Educators, Paraprofessionals, Teacher Assistants

Description: Mark your calendar for the first-ever Charter School Teacher Summit!

- Actively engage in a variety of instructional and academic topics that are unique to all teachers including paraprofessionals, aides, and academic support staff.
- Select from a variety of topics that you'd like to explore during the event.
- Share your expertise, exchange ideas and learn new concepts/strategies.
- Network and build relationships with other educators while learning from educational experts in the field.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, April 28.

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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