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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



March 24, 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!](#)

**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**

### Traffic pollution: an invisible health risk for dozens of Denver schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 23, 2017*

The investigation by the Center for Public Integrity and Reveal, which looked at trends nationwide, found that charter schools are more likely than traditional public schools to be located close to busy roads.

### Gun supporters urge Colorado lawmakers to allow school employees to carry concealed weapons

*The Denver Post - March 22, 2017*

Gun supporters Wednesday urged Colorado lawmakers to approve a measure allowing school employees to carry concealed handguns on campus, but proponents of the bill expressed fears about the consequences.

### New report bemoans state of education in Aurora, but superintendent begs to differ

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 22, 2017*

More than a year after a coalition of nonprofit groups issued a report critical of Aurora Public Schools, a follow-up released Wednesday reveals not much has changed.

### U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Douglas County student disabilities case gets tangled up in Neil Gorsuch hearing

*The Denver Post - March 22, 2017*

A landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday that sets a higher standard for how public schools must educate students with disabilities injected unexpected, real-time legal drama into confirmation hearings for Neil Gorsuch, President Donald Trump's nominee to the high court.

### How limited transportation undermines school choice - even in Denver

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 21, 2017*

Six years after Denver Public Schools created an innovative bus shuttle system to help get students to school, the effort has expanded and evolved but the larger problem it sought to fix remains.

### Will Denver's teachers union election shake up the status quo?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 21, 2017*

Their school days concluded, about 35 Denver educators gathered in a high school auditorium earlier this month to hear starkly different visions of what a teachers union should be.

#### Lawmaker kills bill that would have allowed unlicensed teachers in rural Colorado classrooms

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 21, 2017*

A bill that would have allowed understaffed rural Colorado school districts to hire unlicensed teachers was spiked by its sponsor after he was unable to find enough support.

#### Douglas County parents taking a page from Jefferson County, start fake social media page

*The Complete Colorado - March 20, 2017*

With another school board election around the corner and several charter school bills making their way through the Colorado General Assembly, it appears the gloves are coming off.

#### How the heck does Colorado fund its schools? (And six other money questions you might be embarrassed to ask.)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 20, 2017*

Since public schools were founded, arguments have raged over how to pay for them.

#### Colorado Springs schools deal with fears over immigration

*The Denver Post - March 19, 2017*

Uncertainty surrounding U.S. immigration and deportation practices under President Donald Trump has some wondering where public schools fit into the debate.

#### Two local schools earn statewide academic honors

*Vail Daily - March 18, 2017*

Two local schools earned statewide honors for soaring academically.

#### Colorado schools face an uphill battle as lawmakers wrestle with budget

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 17, 2017*

Colorado lawmakers learned Friday that balancing the state budget just got about \$135 million harder.

#### How Denver Public Schools wants to drive a conversation about creating more integrated schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 17, 2017*

Denver Public Schools is pledging to start a conversation about gentrification and spiraling housing costs in the city, hoping to use the results to create more integrated schools.

#### Mountain View Core Knowledge School approves four-day week

*Canon City News - March 17, 2017*

The governing board of Mountain View Core Knowledge School voted unanimously Friday to move the school to a four-day 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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A level playing field?

The Daily Sentinel - March 22, 2017

The number of charter schools is growing - both locally and statewide. The four current charter schools in the Grand Valley (a fifth one will open soon in Fruita) account for roughly 10 percent of District 51 students.

Academy of Advanced Learning Hiring Leaders and Staff Who Desire To Be Part of High Performance Team with Top Salaries

Academy of Advanced Learning - March 15, 2017

Imagine a school where every educator is passionate about teaching, highly effective and inspired to truly make a difference in the academic outcomes of each student. Imagine this same environment offering a flexible compensation plan, which prioritizes teacher competencies rather than simply years of experience.

Flagstaff Academy Middle School Students Take Top Honors at 2017 Corden Pharma Regional STEM Fair!

Flagstaff Academy - March 8, 2017

Flagstaff Academy, northern Colorado's premier science and technology public prek-8th grade charter school, announces that seven middle school students took TOP honors in the 2017 Corden Pharma Colorado Regional Science Fair on Friday, March 3 held at Nevin Platt Middle School.

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

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.

Webinar: Learn More about NWEA's Newest Tool - the OECD Test for Schools (Based on PISA)

Hosted by NWEA

Date: Wednesday, April 26

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Description: Administrators and educators need reliable, actionable insights on how

well their schools are preparing students for the real world. Today more than ever, there is a need for new and different types of information that focus not only on academic performance, but also on the application of knowledge and 21st century skills including critical thinking and real-life problem solving. Based on the renowned Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and leveraging the scale and rigor of PISA, the OECD Test for Schools provides educators the actionable, school-level information they need to inform program and system level changes, and provides internationally comparable performance results, as well as best practices from top performing education systems around the world.

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

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.

Western Slope Combined Seminar

Hosted by the CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Friday, May 5

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Mountain Middle School, 108 West 31st Street, Durango

Cost: Free

Description: A training designed to address a variety of training needs of charter school instructors, leaders, business managers, and board members.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Register by 8:00 AM on Wednesday, May 3.

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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