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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Colorado League of Charter Schools. Don't forget to add info@coloradoleague.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**March 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**

**Charter School Advocacy Day - April 13**

Join us for Charter School Advocacy Day on April 13. This is an opportunity 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! There is no cost to attend. [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact Dan Schaller at dschaller@coloradoleague.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.](#)

**Deadline: Monday, March 13.**

### **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**

[Dan McMinimee out as Jeffco superintendent, ending awkward period after board vote to search for replacement](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 3, 2017*

Dan McMinimee has stepped down as superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools effective immediately, but will take an advisory role through the end of his contract, the district announced Thursday.

[Colorado Students Continue to Flock to Online Charters, Despite Controversies](#)

*KUNC - March 2, 2017*

Colorado parents are leaving traditional school districts at a higher rate in the last five years. Their destination? Virtual schools. According to a report by the non-profit think tank A+ Colorado, charter schools -- both online and brick-and-mortar -- saw booms in enrollment that far outpaced growth at traditional districts between 2011 and 2015. Online charters alone grew at more than 500 percent in the last five years.

[Colorado could be at the forefront of cutting back on early childhood suspensions and expulsions. Here's how.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 2, 2017*

Legislation introduced this week would limit out-of-school suspensions and expulsions

for Colorado children in state-funded preschool programs and early elementary school. House Bill 1210 represents a major shift in Colorado's approach to early childhood discipline and a key milestone in the years-long discussion in the state and nation about the disproportionate use of harsh discipline tactics on boys of color.

#### Just What IS A Charter School, Anyway?

*NPR Ed - March 1, 2017*

We're all familiar with the term "hidden in plain sight." Well, there may be no better way to describe the nation's 6,900 charter schools.

#### Boulder County students compete in regional science fair at CU

*Daily Camera - March 1, 2017*

Noah Randall, an eighth-grader at Longmont's Flagstaff Academy, likes having Nerf wars outside with friends, but finds tracking down all those darts left on the ground to be painful.

#### New charter schools step closer to reality in El Paso County

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - February 28, 2017*

More proposed charter schools, one focusing on the arts, the other on classical education, are making progress in their quest to open in Colorado Springs in the fall of 2018.

#### Local charter school guru to be honored Friday

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - February 28, 2017*

Colorado Early Colleges Administrator Keith King will be recognized Friday for his dedication to serving students and parents in Colorado. King will receive the "Friends of the Salute Award" during the Salute to Excellence in Education Awards Gala in Denver.

#### Legislative bill would alter TABOR, way revenue limit is calculated in Colorado

*Aurora Sentinel - February 28, 2017*

Two Colorado Republican lawmakers say it's time to talk about fine-tuning a 25-year-old constitutional restriction on how much the state can receive - and spend - without triggering tax refunds.

#### State BOE votes to support testing bill

*9News - February 28, 2017*

The Colorado State Board of Education voted Friday to support a bill that would align the statewide language arts and math assessments for ninth graders to the ones in 10th and 11th graders take.

#### Colorado students could earn biliteracy credential on diploma

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 27, 2017*

Colorado high school graduates next year likely will be able to earn a new credential that proves to colleges and employers they can communicate in at least two languages.

#### Lawmakers take first step to ease testing burden for young English language learners

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 27, 2017*

State lawmakers from both political parties are seeking to undo a controversial State Board of Education decision that called for schools to test thousands of Colorado's youngest students in English - a language they are still learning.

#### Colorado lawmakers are stepping in to help prepare students for the state's booming

tech sector

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 24, 2017*

More Colorado students could be building smartphone apps by the end of next school year.

Criminal background check fees to be waived for thousands of Colorado educators caught up in state bookkeeping snafu

*Chalkbeat Colorado - February 24, 2017*

Colorado educators required to get new criminal background checks because of a bookkeeping problem will not have to pay the \$39.50 processing fee to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation when they re-submit their fingerprints, state education department officials said Friday.

Highlands Ranch students use virtual dialogue with WWI kaiser to spark interest in history

*The Denver Post (front page) - February 21, 2017*

This is the type of class that will attract those who have never before been interested in studying history, said Penelope Eucker, executive director of the STEM School and Academy, a charter school in the Douglas County School District.

School District Approves Charter School Contract

*Pagosa Daily Post - February 21, 2017*

At a special meeting on February 17, after months of thoughtful work and deliberation, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education, took an historic step and unanimously approved a contract with Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) to create the first charter school in Archuleta County.

The Mile High Promise, And Risk, Of School Choice

*NPR Ed - February 20, 2017*

During Betsy DeVos' bitter confirmation hearing last month for education secretary, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet pointed to Denver as a potential national model of a big city school district that's found an innovative, balanced approach to school choice.

Loveland Classical adds gym to new school

*Reporter-Herald News - February 17, 2017*

Loveland Classical Schools is adding a gym onto its new campus that is under construction thanks to cost savings, reserves and donations.

## **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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EDITORIAL: Support bill to even the playing field

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - March 3, 2017*

Yet, for all its groundbreaking work establishing charter schools, our state continues to discriminate against them. Charter schoolers don't get to ride the bus, for example; their families must provide them transportation. And charters don't necessarily open their doors on Day 1 in a new school building provided by taxpayers the way

neighborhood schools do. Most charters operate in locations their boards have found on their own - sometimes former neighborhood schools; often storefronts, former warehouses and so forth.

#### [SkyView Academy Staff Leap Hurdles to Help Student with Rare Eye Disease](#)

*SkyView Academy - March 1, 2017*

When SkyView Academy (SVA) 1st grade teacher April Chism learned she would have Logan Johnson in her class this year, she knew she would do everything in her power to make sure Logan experienced great success in school. Logan was born with Aniridia, a rare genetic disorder that literally means "no iris"

#### [North Star Academy Challenges Students To Reduce Social Media "Screen Time"](#)

*North Star Academy - February 27, 2017*

Kids everywhere have heard the request to "put down the screen" (cell phone or other screen-based technology) and do something productive. North Star Academy's principal, Kendra Hossfeld, decided to take the advice to heart and challenge the school's 8th grade students to a week-long "screen detox".

#### [Charter schools deserve same funding as Colorado's other public schools \(2 letters\)](#)

*The Denver Post - February 27, 2017*

Re: "Senate Bill 61 introduces Colorado to the Trump-DeVos education agenda," Feb. 27 guest commentary. I am appalled by Kerrie Dallman's piece on the funding of public charter schools.

### **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**

### **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.

### **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 - 2:30 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 3 innovative tools:

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

Brigdit2College: Move students from acceptance to enrollment with this interactive roadmap.

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

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.denverlanguageschool.org).

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

### **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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