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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



March 31, 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**

**Apply for Free Registration to the 2017 National Charter Schools Conference from BuyQ**

If you are a charter school business or operations professional, [apply here](#) and you may be awarded a full scholarship for registration to the [2017 National Charter Schools Conference](#) in Washington D.C., June 11-14 from our national group purchasing partner, [BuyQ](#). BuyQ is awarding multiple scholarships to charter school business and operations professionals (with titles including CBO, COO, CFO, Operations Manager or Director, Business Manager or Director). Facilities and Technology Directors and Managers who have purchasing responsibilities are also eligible. Five scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis. Apply early for the best opportunity to be selected. [Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

**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!](#)

### **Colorado Blended Learning Roadmap**

Colorado Empowered Learning, a state program working to enhance equity and access in K-12 education through blended learning, has launched a statewide effort in partnership with the Keystone Policy Center to develop the Colorado Blended Learning Roadmap. Vital to this process is feedback from district and school leaders, educators, students, parents, community members, and Colorado education experts to ensure that the roadmap appropriately supports teacher-led education and the use of digital content across Colorado. Meetings are taking place across the state. For more information and to register visit [www.keystone.org/BlendedLearningMeetings](http://www.keystone.org/BlendedLearningMeetings) Feedback is also being gathered through a brief online survey: [tinyurl.com/cel-blended-learning](https://tinyurl.com/cel-blended-learning)

## **News Articles**

[Colorado House Speaker Crisanta Duran says charter school funding bill needs to address equity](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 30, 2017*

Crisanta Duran, speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, said this week she is concerned that a bill that would send millions of dollars to charter schools doesn't do enough to support the state's at-risk students.

[Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet: DeVos 'wrong' about school choice in Denver](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 30, 2017*

The Democrat took to Twitter to challenge DeVos's implication that choices in Denver are lacking because students may not use private school vouchers or don't have enough charter schools from which to choose.

[Colorado schools will see slight increase in funding under budget approved by Senate](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 30, 2017*

After months of anxiety over potentially deep cuts to classrooms, Colorado schools can expect a slight increase in funding after the state Senate approved a nearly \$27 billion budget that also restored funding for a controversial student health survey.

[Colorado schools soon will be judged by a new measure: How many students are chronically absent](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 30, 2017*

Colorado is one of more than a dozen states that will use chronic absenteeism as a measure of school and district quality in the education plans they'll soon submit to the federal government. More specifically, Colorado will look at whether schools and districts are reducing chronic absenteeism among elementary- and middle-schoolers. At the high school level, the state will look at dropout rates.

[DSST doesn't want to open a new school in Aurora. The charter network wants to open two.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 29, 2017*

DSST, Denver's largest and fastest growing charter school network, wants to open two new schools by 2021 that would serve nearly 2,000 students - in Aurora. That's according to a formal proposal DSST submitted to Aurora Public Schools this month. The DSST charter application was the only one the district received by the annual deadline for charter school applications this month.

[Harsh realities of growing up poor pushed this Colorado teacher to connect with her](#)

### students

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 29, 2017*

Natalie Mejia, a math teacher at Atlas Preparatory School in Colorado Springs, knows the challenges many of her students face. She grew up poor in Los Angeles, navigating an education system that didn't reflect her culture or background. It's the reason she's determined to show her seventh- and eighth-graders how much they matter.

### New Rankings Are Out on Charter School Laws. How Do States Use Them?

*Education Week - March 29, 2017*

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools last week released its eighth annual rankings of state public charter schools by matching how closely the laws in 43 states and the District of Columbia align with the group's model charter school law.

### Bruce Messinger, Boulder Valley school superintendent, placed on leave over personnel matter

*Boulder Daily Camera - March 29, 2017*

The Boulder Valley School District has placed Superintendent Bruce Messinger on paid administrative leave while it investigates a personnel matter. According to an email sent by the district's Board of Education to Boulder Valley staff, the investigation is expected to take 30 days. The email, sent today, did not say what the personnel matter was about.

### Weeks after DeVos praises school choice efforts in Denver, she slams the city as offering "accessibility without choices"

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 29, 2017*

Earlier this month, U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos was praising Denver's efforts to support school choice. Not today. Speaking at the Brookings Institution Wednesday, she called out Denver as an example of a district that appears to be choice-friendly - but actually lacks sufficient options for families.

### What The Trump Budget Proposal Could Mean For Colorado Education

*Colorado Public Radio - March 28, 2017*

For the 2015-2018 school years, Colorado received \$36 million in funding, or \$11 million annually for charter school startups or expansions. The program is a competitive grant program so there is no guarantee Colorado would receive funding after 2018.

### Colorado lawmakers introduce a \$26.8 billion state spending bill

*The Denver Post - March 27, 2017*

Colorado lawmakers introduced a \$26.8 billion state spending bill Monday that offers a modest increase in state employee salaries and education at the expense of cuts to hospitals.

### Bill hopes to study, reverse Colorado's growing teacher shortage

*The Denver Post - March 27, 2017*

A bipartisan bill aimed at studying and fixing the causes of Colorado's growing teacher shortage passed the state House on Monday and now heads to the Senate for approval.

### Colorado poised to slash funding for controversial student health survey

*Chalkbeat Colorado - March 27, 2017*

Two years after a controversial student health survey sparked protracted debate at the State Board of Education, questions about the survey's value have moved to the state legislature - and could mean a loss of \$745,000 in state funding for the biennial data

collection effort.

Charter schools in Colorado are growing in number and influence 25 years after they took hold

*The Denver Post - March 25, 2017*

Boulder Prep is one of Colorado's 238 charter schools and among the oldest. Started nearly 25 years ago, charters are now firmly rooted in the state's school landscape and, in fact, are growing faster than ever. They have attracted allies among school officials and state lawmakers, who say they spawn innovation and help kids who have left or been abandoned by traditional classrooms.

North Routt Community Charter School employee named to state board

*Steamboat Today - March 24, 2017*

Susan Marshall was nominated by school Principal Brandon LaChance as one of 11 candidates for three open positions on the Colorado League of Charter Schools' Board of Directors. Incumbents filled two of the seats, and Marshall is the only new member.

Major overhaul to help rural Colorado could be a game changer for the legislative session

*The Denver Post - March 27, 2017*

The rural areas of Colorado, where folks feel left behind by the state's economic rebound, are the focus of a far-reaching bill introduced Monday designed to pump millions of dollars into hospitals, roads and classrooms considered to be near the brink of failure.

## **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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Mr. Trump, Don't boost our budgets while cutting education: Charter school CEOs

USA Today - March 28, 2017

Every day, our community of students, families and educators are working together and proving together the power of a great public education. We believe in an America where all young people have a fair shot at succeeding - where a great education, all the way from prekindergarten to college, is not only accessible but affordable. Instead, we are seeing drastic cuts to programs that are critical.

Peak to Peak Charter School Students To Compete in International Debate Contest Finals

Peak to Peak Charter School - March 24, 2017

Students from Peak to Peak Charter School of Lafayette will soon pack their bags - for a trip to New York City to compete as a finalist in a global debate competition that will address a very timely topic for many countries around the world: the global refugee crisis.

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: This training is designed to support charter school 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.](#)

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](#). Enter promo code JoinUs for a \$75 discount!

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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