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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



April 14, 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**

**Education Commissioner now accepting applications for Teacher Cabinet**

Applications are now being accepted for teacher representatives on the Colorado Education Commissioner's Teacher Cabinet. Selected applicants will advise on policy implementation and provide ideas on improving education for all students. The cabinet will be made up of 15 teachers from around the state representing schools and districts of all sizes. **Help us get charter representation on this important Cabinet!** To be considered, educators must have at least three years of experience in the classroom and must submit required materials by Friday, May 5. Selected educators will serve two years on the cabinet beginning in August 2017. [View the application details, including a timeline for the application process.](#)

**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](#)

**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.](#)

### **Chairs for Sale**

West Ridge Academy in Greeley has stackable chairs for sale. [Click here to view photo.](#) If interested, please contact Russ Spicer at 970-214-4001 or [rspicer@wrak8.org](mailto:rspicer@wrak8.org).

## **News Articles**

### [Rep. Polis stops at two Greeley schools in education tour](#)

*The Greeley Tribune - April 13, 2017*

After touring the Greeley Early College Academy and Salida del Sol Academy on Thursday morning, Rep. Jared Polis said he was impressed by the schools' innovation.

### [HOPE Online charter school would dodge closure under state plan, but that doesn't mean it's safe](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 13, 2017*

One of Colorado's lowest-performing - and most controversial - online charter schools would reorganize its board of directors and hire outside help to better recruit and train educators under an improvement plan negotiated with the state.

### [Vote on Colorado education plan erupts into war of words over which kids will benefit](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 13, 2017*

The State Board of Education on Thursday unanimously approved Colorado's federally required education plan, but not before two of its most outspoken members questioned whether it would make any difference and clashed over which students would benefit.

### [The toughest Denver public schools to get into](#)

*Denver 7 - April 13, 2017*

The school choice system in Denver has garnered national attention in recent weeks, earning both recognition by the Brookings Institute and criticism (and praise) from U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

### [PSAS at Fulton Heights' first principal is Salt Creek native](#)

*The Pueblo Chieftain - April 12, 2017*

A native and current resident of the Salt Creek community has been tabbed to lead the recently chartered Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences at Fulton Heights. Anthony Martinez, who was a second-grader at Fulton Heights Elementary when it closed in the early 1980s, was named principal of the second campus for Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences.

### [Colorado lawmakers kill bill on energy drilling near schools](#)

*Fort Collins Coloradoan - April 12, 2017*

Urged on by industry and business groups, a Republican-led Senate committee voted along party lines Wednesday to defeat a proposal to extend the required distance between Colorado's schools and its oil and gas wells.

### [Colorado teacher shortage bill gets a passing grade](#)

*The Denver Post - April 12, 2017*

A bill requiring state education officials and school districts to identify and attack the root causes of a critical teacher shortage in Colorado was approved Wednesday by the

Senate Education Committee.

Not just a Front Range problem: Young boys of color are more likely to be suspended in rural Colorado, too

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 11, 2017*

When a Colorado bill that would limit suspensions and expulsions among young students met vocal opposition from rural school district leaders in March, a common refrain was that harsh discipline tactics were a Front Range problem, not a rural one.

Rural aid package, including \$400 million for rural schools, advances in Colorado Senate

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 11, 2017*

A bipartisan legislative package that would provide much-needed financial relief to Colorado's rural schools, roads and hospitals has cleared its first legislative hurdle.

Some Colorado students upset with timing of SAT testing, which starts Tuesday

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - April 10, 2017*

The acronym isn't all that's new. For the first time, Colorado's 64,266 high school juniors will take the SAT college-entrance exam at school Tuesday, instead of the ACT, which has been standard practice since 2001.

Colorado rural schools, many strapped for cash, could get a boost from lawmakers

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 10, 2017*

Every week since November, Sterling school superintendent Jan DeLay has met with her administrative team to figure out how to cut \$1.25 million from the district's budget.

How Are Charters and District Schools Working Together? In Many Ways

*Education Week - April 7, 2017*

Single enrollment systems. Shared school buildings. Common accountability. Joint teacher-professional development. A decade ago, these types of collaboration between charter schools and traditional district schools were extremely rare.

Jeffco teachers would get pay raises under tentative agreement

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 7, 2017*

Officials from Jeffco Public Schools have agreed to \$19.5 million in pay increases for teachers next year.

The new-look SAT is here, ushering in more changes to how Colorado tests kids

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 7, 2017*

At STRIVE Excel, a northwest Denver charter high school, students Friday shuffled through the hallways in pajamas. Some wrapped themselves in cozy fleece blankets.

Free Horizon Montessori students bound for imagination

*Golden Transcript - March 28, 2017*

What does a museum, cats, worms and pink-backed turtle have in common? Nothing - except they all came from the imaginations of 10 students at the Free Horizon Montessori school in Golden for the projects they entered into the regional competition for Destination Imagination.

## **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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Applying charter school accountability to district-run city schools

AEIdeas - April 12, 2017

Now, if we have any interest in exploring if charter accountability can be brought to bear on the broader public education system, now's the time. Thanks to ESSA, the new federal education law, states have the chance to re-imagine accountability systems. States are now, at this very moment, developing new approaches to accountability. So that's my goal here today: To encourage states to use the ESSA opportunity to learn from and apply the lessons of charter school accountability.

In Denver, a Call for More Diverse Charter School Options

Education Week - April 12, 2017

Are there situations in which school choice-friendly policies haven't led to more diverse instructional choices for families?

State Bill Would Recognize College-Ready High School Students

Colorado Early Colleges - April 7, 2017

The Colorado education committee on Thursday unanimously approved a bill that would allow concurrent enrollment to count toward the state's Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) indicator. Concurrent enrollment refers to credit hours earned when high school students take college courses for both high school and college credit.

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

Webinar: Meet your Students for the First Time on BASE

Hosted by BASE Education and the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, April 18

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Description: What if there was a way to meet the demands of your student's learning environment while simultaneously understanding exactly where your kids are? BASE Education is the first platform of its kind, providing Social-Emotional awareness, education, and therapeutic processing for all kids.

BASE

- Identifies the needs of young people (ages 12 to 21) on an individual level
- Allows the adults in their lives to connect with their students through a deeper lens
- Helps to get students back in the classroom successfully.
- Provides a tool for the adults to better interact, to better understand, and to serve students with meaning.

When adults listen, kids respond, and they are responding through BASE. Join this free webinar to learn how this cutting edge technology is putting healing on the map!

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

Colorado ASBO 64th Annual Spring Conference

Hosted by Colorado Association of School Business Officials

Date: Wednesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 20

Location: Westin Hotel, 10600 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster

Registration: [Click here for information and registration.](#)

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.](#)

The Colorado Montessori Association Conference

Date: Saturday, April 29

Time: 7:45 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: DCS Montessori Charter School, 311 E. Castle Pines Pkwy, Castle Pines

Cost: Colorado Montessori Association Members: \$65 per person | Non-Members: \$80 per person

Description: The Colorado Montessori Association is a powerful voice for Montessori advocacy providing a forum for networking and professional growth in the Montessori community. It is a highly functioning, evolving professional organization, unified in its vision, respectful, purposeful, and inclusive.

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

City Plans Far Northeast Denver - 2017 Economic Summit

Hosted by the Denver Mayor's Office, City Councilmembers Stacie Gilmore and Christopher Herndon, the Office of Economic Development, and the Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships.

Date: Saturday, April 29

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Evie Garrett Dennis E-12 Campus, 4800 Telluride Street Denver

Description: The collaborative, grassroots event is a joint project of the City and County of Denver and a range of stakeholders from Montbello and surrounding neighborhoods. A kickoff keynote on economic mobility will be presented by Dr. Jared Bernstein, a former chief economist in the Obama Administration, and the day will also include a community resource fair.

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: 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.

Charter Communicators Network Meeting

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, May 8

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: Banning Lewis Ranch Academy, 7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs

Cost: League Members: \$25 per person; Non-Members: \$75 per person

Note: Includes coffee and lunch.

Description: Charter Communicators Network Meetings take place three times per year. This is a chance for charter school communications staff, or any staff interested in building school communications and marketing efforts, to come together. During these meetings, attendees will network and share best practices, as well as hear from experts in the field.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, May 4.

Business Manager Network Meeting

A CDE Schools of Choice event hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, May 12

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: The Summit Conference & Event Center, 411 Sable Blvd., Aurora

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.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, May 9.

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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