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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



April 21, 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**

**It's as easy as 1-2-3! Complete the Charter School Facilities Survey Today**

We need your input! The League recognizes that facilities are an essential component to the success of a charter school, and the data collected from the Facilities Initiatives Survey will help us to better advocate for charters to secure and retain long term, high-quality, affordable school space. The online questionnaire takes approximately 1 hour to complete. We encourage all schools to complete the survey ASAP. If your school did not receive a survey link via email on Thursday, April 20th, please contact Omar Ihmoda at [oihmoda@coloradoleague.org](mailto:oihmoda@coloradoleague.org). Learn more about the Initiative by visiting [www.FacilitiesInitiative.org](http://www.FacilitiesInitiative.org).

**Updated Guidance for Immunization Exemption Forms**

In response to several requests from schools for support and clarity about immunization exemption forms, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Department of Education are jointly issuing new guidance in [this memo](#). This guidance can also be found on the Vaccine Exemptions page [here](#). If you have additional questions, please contact: [cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us).

**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.](#)

#### **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**

### Charter approved for Colorado Military Academy set to open in August

*KOAA News 5 - April 18, 2017*

A first of its kind, all military charter school will finally happen in Colorado Springs. With their charter in hand, the Colorado Military Academy now has access to financing which will pay for the building itself, internal renovations and the enrollment system.

### Colorado bill advances to test for lead in water at public schools

*9News via Coloradoan - April 18, 2017*

Colorado is one step closer to passing a bill that would make sure the water at public schools is safe to drink.

### First Wave of ESSA Plans Gives Early Look at State Priorities

*Education Week - April 17, 2017*

The Every Student Succeeds Act sought to give states flexibility to put their own stamp on accountability systems, including setting their own goals for student achievement and moving beyond reading and math test scores in rating student and school performance.

### Can Colorado's kids compete in the modern economy? New bill would prioritize overhaul of state's education system

*The Denver Post - April 17, 2017*

A measure that would overall Colorado's K-12 school system so that it can best prepare students for the world of 2030 passed the State House Monday and is headed from the Senate.

### Landmark school discipline reform legislation killed by Republicans on Colorado Senate panel

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 17, 2017*

A bipartisan attempt to reform how Colorado schools discipline their youngest students died Monday, even after the bill's sponsors offered amendments to placate rural school leaders who opposed the legislation.

Showdown over state budget raises possibility of a special session

*Colorado Politics - April 17, 2017*

The House and Senate are on a collision course over the proposed annual state budget that has raised increasing concerns over the chance of a special session.

Why a key piece of legislation to fund Colorado schools is on hold

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 17, 2017*

Funding for Colorado's schools is caught in the political crosshairs at the statehouse with only 23 days left for lawmakers to complete their work this year.

Colorado students could face cuts to after-school and summer programs next year

*The Denver Post - April 16, 2017*

For Patricia Cardenas, higher education once seemed out of reach because of financial setbacks and shaky grades in her freshman year.

Colorado's teacher shortage is a 'crisis' that's getting worse, educators say

*Longmont Times-Call - April 14, 2017*

Stephanie Wujek grew up a small town girl with dreams of becoming a teacher in a small town school. Wujek, 24, got her wish after graduating with a biology degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

A new charter school in Aurora aims to give students a head start when it comes to college credits.

*Aurora Sentinel - April 14, 2017*

A new charter school in Aurora aims to give students a head start when it comes to college credits. Colorado Early Colleges is opening a new school this fall in the former National University Campus at 350 Blackhawk St.

## 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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Be Accountable.

U.S. News & World Report - April 20, 2017

But there's another half of chartering that hasn't yet informed our traditional public school systems. It's charter-style accountability.

Counting attendance in school ratings could be smart - or completely misleading

Chalkbeat Colorado (First Person) - April 20, 2017

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, state and local leaders are supposed to find new ways, beyond the use of test scores, to gauge their schools' performance. If absenteeism becomes one of those factors, then how should we account for its many possible causes? To what extent is a school to blame for the problem, and to what extent is it caused by things outside of a school's control?

Time to break down barriers to hiring rural teachers

The Complete Colorado - April 17, 2017

Public education seeks to meet the needs of all students, and hiring effective teachers

is a critical part of reaching that goal. However, many schools face hurdles when hiring. Nowhere are these challenges clearer than in rural districts struggling to fill classroom teaching positions under needlessly restrictive state teacher licensure requirements.

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: 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.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, May 18

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: TBD

Cost: \$25 per person

Description: These meetings enable charter school technology personnel to regularly network and share best practices with one another. The Colorado League of Charter Schools hosts, facilitates and coordinates these quarterly meetings in an effort to learn about and provide the resources and tools needed by schools to: 1) Develop effective technology plans for their organizations; 2) Develop efficient and cost-effective methods of implementation; and 3) Maximize the performance of their technology in growing student achievement levels.

Agenda: Coming soon

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, May 16.

Authorizers' Meeting

Hosted by the CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Friday, May 19

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Daniels Fund, 101 Monroe Street, Denver

Cost: Free

Description: A training offered four times a year at various locations across the state, designed to highlight best practices and developing and reviewing tools for charter oversight.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Register by 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 18.

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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