

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

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!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



April 28, 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.

~~~~~

**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).

**Charters Dominate U.S. News & World Report Top High School List**

Congratulations to the charter public schools that made *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 list of top ranked high schools. Seven of the top 10 Colorado high schools (including the #1 spot) are charter schools! Congratulations to: #1 - Peak to Peak Charter School, #2 - DSST: Stapleton High School, #3 - KIPP Denver Collegiate High School, #4 - Liberty Common High School School, #6 - The Vanguard School, #7 - Twin Peaks Charter Academy, and #8 - Ridgeview Classical Charter Schools. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement! [Click here to see the ranking of your high school.](#)

### **Financial Transparency Act: New Requirements in Effect**

CDE will be launching a public website on July 1 in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Transparency Act, that will enable the ability for users to make comparisons between districts, schools within districts, schools across districts, BOCES and charter schools. The public website view will present financial data with the greatest degree of clarity and comparability for the layperson. SCHOOLS MUST PROVIDE data in a specific format for the website. Click here for [Data Preparation & Posting Guide](#) and [BrightBytes Training On-Demand Webinar](#). Please contact Glen Zollman at 208-440-4536 or glen@brightbytes.net for more information.

### **High Point Academy Training Session For Teachers**

High Point Academy in Aurora will be hosting a training session for teachers titled *Units of Study Reading* for grades Kindergarten - Grade 5. As educators, they realize the importance of partnering with other schools in programs that benefit all students. High Point Academy is currently seeking schools that would be interested in partnering with them and sharing in the cost of the program. This all-day training will be held in August. Please contact Reyne Hirano at rhirano@highpointacademy.net if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

### **Free Classroom Dividers**

Two Rivers Community School in Glenwood Springs is giving away free classroom dividers (cubicle dividers). The dividers are only three years old and in decent shape. Enough available to create an entire school of rooms. [Click here to view photos](#). Ready for pick-up on May 19. If you're interested, please email James at James.nims@tworiverscs.org to learn more.

## **News Articles**

[Colorado Senate Republicans push charter school funding in annual school spending bill](#)  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 27, 2017*

State Sen. Owen Hill, a Colorado Springs Republican, backed by his GOP colleagues, amended this year's school finance legislation to include language that would require school districts to share revenue from locally-approved tax increases with charter schools.

[The thorny problem of segregated schools and Denver's newest plan to address it](#)  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 27, 2017*

Denver schools are more racially segregated today than they were a decade ago, even with the district's share of white students growing over that time. That finding, from the KIDS COUNT report released by the Colorado Children's Campaign today, highlights a problem that has dogged officials in Denver and across the nation for decades and will soon draw the attention of a new Denver Public Schools committee charged with addressing school diversity in the gentrifying city.

[Parents, students press Aurora school district to pass resolution assuring safety of immigrant students](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 26, 2017*

As a mother of four U.S.-born schoolchildren, but being in the country illegally herself, Arely worries that immigration agents might pick her up while she is taking her kids to school one day.

[Charters appeal to a growing number of families](#)  
*Colorado Springs Independent - April 26, 2017*

Janet Nace, principal of Pikes Peak Prep in Colorado Springs, starts her day at 6:30 a.m. But she isn't just rolling out of bed at that time - the school is already bustling with students.

#### Everyone hates how Colorado funds its schools. So who is going to fix it?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 26, 2017*

Glenn Gustafson, the chief financial officer for Colorado Springs District 11, has spent the past few months crisscrossing the state sharing his grave prediction about school funding to anyone who will listen.

#### Senate Republicans kill bill that would have taken broad look at public education in Colorado

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 26, 2017*

A Republican-controlled state Senate committee spiked a bill Wednesday that was meant to spark a broad conversation about the future of Colorado's public schools.

#### Vanguard School ranks as one of the best high schools in Colorado

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - April 25, 2017*

One Colorado Springs high school again is a top dog in the state, according to U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of the nation's best public high schools.

#### 15 Colorado high schools earn top marks in latest 'Best High Schools in America' report

*Denver 7News - April 25, 2017*

That was reinforced again Tuesday, when 15 Colorado high schools earned gold medals in the just-released 2017 U.S. News and World Report's "Best High Schools in America" report, and two of them ended up in the top 100 in the country.

#### New Colorado Law Calls For State Standard In Computer Science Education

*CBS Denver 4 - April 24, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a bill aimed at boosting computer science education in Colorado's public schools.

#### RAFT keeps Colorado educators afloat with cheap classroom supplies and inspiration

*The Denver Post - April 24, 2017*

A converted 29,000 square-foot military warehouse in Denver is inspiring thousands of cash-strapped teachers at a low, low price.

#### Project-based charter school proposal piques D-11's interest

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - April 22, 2017*

After denying proposals from other charter schools for reasons that included concerns about costs and duplication, Colorado Springs School District 11's board has nudged one idea forward.

#### GALLERY: The 10 best Colorado charter high schools

*Denver 7 - April 21, 2017*

Denver7 has been showcasing some of the best schools the state has to offer over the past couple of weeks, and now it's time for charter schools.

#### Some Colorado schools turning to 'restorative practices' as alternative to school punishment

*Denver 7 - April 21, 2017*

Several schools in Colorado are using a new approach to school discipline aside from sending kids to the office or suspending them. The concept is known as

restorative practices - where issues are talked out before problems become even bigger.

### Schools in Pueblo, Greeley up next as state sorts out struggling schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 21, 2017*

The Colorado Department of Education is expected Monday to suggest that five of the state's lowest-performing schools, including one that was once considered a reform miracle, hire outsiders to help right the course.

### Teacher of the Year: The First-Ever Charter Honoree Talks Social Justice, Trauma, and Accountability

*The 74 - April 20, 2017*

Sydney Chaffee, a humanities teacher at Codman Academy Charter Public School in Dorchester, Massachusetts, was named National Teacher of the Year Thursday.

## **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.***

~~~~~

Letter: Treat all public schools students equally

The Fort Collins Coloradoan - April 26, 2017

Respectfully, Sen. John Kefalas' explanation for voting against bipartisan Senate Bill 61 fails scrutiny.

An open letter from Sen. Michael Bennet to the students of Colorado

Mic - April 21, 2017

Dear Students,

When you wake up each morning, you should be focused on checking your homework, packing your backpack and walking into class ready to learn. You should feel hopeful for the future.

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

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.

Achieve3000 Webinar: Special Literacy Offer for League Members

Hosted by Achieve3000

Dates/Times: Wednesday, May 3 - 10:00 AM | Wednesday, May 3 - 1:00 PM | Friday, May 5 - 11:00 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Description: Bring high quality literacy resources and professional learning supports to your school in 2017-18! The League has negotiated a substantial group purchasing discount on ACHIEVE3000 licenses for League members. Join this webinar to learn about the only patented solution that delivers daily differentiated instruction for nonfiction reading and writing that's precisely tailored to each student's Lexile reading level.

Registration: Register for the Webinar DATE of your choice:

Wednesday, May 3 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, May 3 - 1:00 PM

Friday, May 5 - 11:00 AM

(This is a Webex platform and the session password is charter)

Questions? Contact Mark Turner at Mark.turner@achieve3000.com

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.

Agenda: [Click here to view agenda](#).

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.

Topic-Based Webinar: Multi-Tiered System of Supports

Hosted by the CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Wednesday, May 17

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Online/Webinar

Cost: Free

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Register by 8:00 AM on May 17.

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.

Board Fundamentals

Hosted by the CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Friday, June 2

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Community First Foundation, 5955 Wadsworth Bypass, Arvada

Description: A training offered twice a year in collaboration with the Colorado League of Charter Schools to support board members in providing a sound introduction to board practice and responsibilities, a refresher to continuing board members in board leadership roles, and to introduce school leaders to general charter school governing board practices and responsibilities.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) Register by 8:00 AM on Thursday, June 1.

Administrator Mentoring Cohort (AMC)

Hosted by the CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Wednesday, June 7

Time: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Prospect Ridge Academy, 2555 Preble Creek Parkway, Broomfield

Description: A mentoring program that meets six times a year, geared toward new administrators or experienced administrators that are new to the charter school environment (though administrators outside these categories are welcome).

Administrators will work as a cohort team, work one-on-one with a mentor, and participate in site observations as they build leadership capacity among new charter school administrators. The AMC is also fully accredited as a charter school principal induction program where charter school leaders with their initial principal license can be recommended for professional licensure.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, June 2.

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 (Early bird rate ends May 1)

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](#).

~~~~~

**Visit us online at:** <http://www.coloradoleague.org>

**Find Us on Facebook**

[Click here](#) to like us on Facebook.

**Follow Us on Twitter**

[Click here](#) to follow us on Twitter.

Colorado League of Charter Schools, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,  
Suite 250, Denver, CO 80222

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [srader@coloradoleague.org](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today