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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



April 7, 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**

**We need your help!**

The Colorado Teaching and Learning Conditions survey (formerly TELL Survey) is under revision to ensure that it yields the most relevant and meaningful results possible. It will be administered again in early 2018. As a reminder, this is a statewide survey for teachers to share perceptions on their school conditions. It is intended to give schools, districts, researchers and policymakers a way to study and respond to important factors that influence student growth, effective practices and staff mobility. You are invited to weigh in on setting priorities for the revised survey and selecting a new name! Please respond on or before April 30 to the brief feedback form found [here](#).

**64th Annual CASBO Spring Conference**

The 64th Annual CASBO Spring Conference hosted by the Colorado Association of School Business Officials is taking place on Wednesday, April 19 - Friday, April 21 in Westminster. [Click here to register and learn more.](#)

**Important E-Rate Information**

April 13 is the final day you can post an FCC Form 470 and still wait the required 28 days to select your service provider, sign a contract (if applicable), and certify your FCC Form 471 on the last day of the window. If your FCC Form 471 is late, it is unlikely to be considered for funding. If you have not posted Form 470, please do so at this time. Questions? Contact DeLilah Collins at 303-866-6850 or collins\_d@cde.state.co.us.

## **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!](#)

## **News Articles**

### More high school students earning college credit through concurrent enrollment

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 6, 2017*

More Colorado students are taking college courses while they're in high school, continuing an upward trend, according to a state report released Thursday. There were 38,519 students in so-called concurrent enrollment programs in the 2015-16 school year, or more than 30 percent of all 11th-graders and 12th-graders in the state's public high schools.

### Rural Schools Serve As A Canary In The Coalmine For Colorado's Teacher Shortage

*KUNC - April 5, 2017*

Outside of the single building that houses Weldon Valley Elementary, Weldon Valley Middle School and Weldon Valley High School, it's very quiet.

### After delay over district jurisdiction, proposed Colorado Springs military charter school pushes forward

*The Gazette - April 5, 2017*

After a confusing couple of weeks, Colorado's first K-12 military-style school seems back on track for an Aug. 14 opening in a building near the north gate of Peterson Air Force Base.

### Aurora district considering consequences for low-performing charter schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 5, 2017*

In Aurora Public Schools, district-run schools must perform well enough academically or face repercussions, including possible closure, if they don't shape up fast enough.

### Former Jeffco superintendent lands new job as leader of charter network

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 4, 2017*

Former Jeffco Public Schools Superintendent Dan McMinimee has been named head of a growing charter school network catering to immigrant and at-risk students.

### Colorado state education plan writers worry it fails to hold schools accountable

*The Denver Post via Chalkbeat Colorado - April 4, 2017*

While Colorado's federally required education plan is being celebrated by national observers for changes to the state's school accountability system and extensive community engagement process, some education advocates who helped shape the document say it falls short of pushing schools forward.

Colorado study shows support for transgender students greatly reduces suicide risk  
*Denver 7 - April 4, 2017*

Like so many transgender people, Morgan Seamont never fit in growing up, and the world made sure he knew it.

It seemed like a sure thing. Now a Colorado bill limiting early childhood suspensions and expulsions is on life support.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 4, 2017*

Legislation that would significantly limit suspensions and expulsions for Colorado's youngest students has hit a late and possibly fatal roadblock - opposition from the state's rural school districts.

Fort Collins student aces state geography bee; moves to nationals

*The Denver Post - April 3, 2017*

Henry Halgren, a student at Liberty Common School in Fort Collins, won the Colorado National Geographic Geography Bee Friday.

## 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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North Star Academy Raises Money for paws4vets

North Star Academy - April 6, 2017

"We were honored to have Elise visit North Star and talk with our students about her experiences and the importance of dogs like COWBOY," said NSA principal, Kendra Hossfeld. "Our students raised over \$1,000 to support Elise and paw4vets. We held a 'hat day' and students had the opportunity to contribute donations to the organization and wear their favorite hat to school."

Nationally-Known School Reformer Joins Ascent Classical Academy in Douglas County
Ascent Classical Academies - April 4, 2017

Ascent Classical Academies are pleased to announce that Dr. Terrence O. Moore has joined the Ascent team as the founding principal of the Douglas County K-12 classical charter school's launch in the fall of 2018. Dr. Moore brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the realm of classical charter schools as well as previous experience in Colorado.

In Defense of Teacher-Evaluation Reform

Education Week - April 4, 2017

When Gov. Bill Ritter signed Colorado's teacher-evaluation framework into law in 2010, he set in motion a powerful transformation of the state's education system.

There is a middle ground on the issue of charter schools

The Denver Post - April 1, 2107

The Denver Post's article on charter schools lays out a faulty "either-or" proposition: either extreme, Betsy DeVos-style "school choice" that pushes private school vouchers and unmitigated charter authorization, or the traditional, one-size-fits-all approach that has failed at-risk children for years.

[Why I'm Worried About the Future of Charter Schools](#)

Education Week - March 30, 2017

Over the last few weeks, I've been asked repeatedly about U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Friends and neighbors who know that my work involves charter schools have said, "You must be happy." But the truth is, I am worried about the future of 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

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.](#)

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.](#)

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.

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](#).

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