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COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**May 12, 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**

**Don't Forget to Add the Facilities Survey to Your End of Year To-Do List!**

Charter school participation in the Colorado Charter School Facilities Initiative Survey is vital to its success. The collected data will be analyzed and used to support League policy efforts to address many challenges charter schools face, including limited state funding, expensive private leases, and school districts obstructing the ability of charter schools to acquire available campus space. The online questionnaire takes approximately one hour to complete -- however if you gather the information you will need ahead of time it should only take 20-30 minutes. If you do not have access to your school's unique survey link, contact Omar Ihmoda at oihmoda@coloradoleague.org.

**Online Certificate in School Discipline Reform**

Loyola University Chicago School of Law and School of Education is offering an Online Certificate Program in School Discipline Reform. This online certificate program is designed for professionals committed to serving their students and their communities by understanding, shaping, and implementing prevention-oriented approaches to school discipline. Loyola is hosting three upcoming information sessions about this certificate program: 1) May 17 | 5:00 PM (in-person): Open House at the Corboy Law Center, 25 E. Pearson St, Chicago 2) May 25 | 12:00 PM PM CST (online) and 3) June 13 | 7:00 PM CST (online). [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Capturing Kids' Hearts**

Union Colony Elementary will be hosting Capturing Kids' Hearts August 10 and 11. They currently have 10 seats available at a cost of \$600/person. Capturing Kids' Hearts is based on developing relational capacity within the school by teaching others how to develop self-managing classrooms and safe learning spaces. [Click here to view brochure](#). To register for this training opportunity, please contact Kenny Wildenstein at [kwildenstein@unioncolonyschools.org](mailto:kwildenstein@unioncolonyschools.org) or 970-373-5994.

### **Free Items**

Aurora Academy Charter School is giving away the following items for free: A 12' conference table with laminated top in good shape (some conference chairs are available as well). They need this table moved by 5-22. Also, there are two rolling shelving carts that need to go! [Click here to view these items](#). Please contact Steve Snyder at [ssnyder@aacademy.org](mailto:ssnyder@aacademy.org) if interested.

### **School Warming Box for Sale**

Windsor Charter Academy is selling a new, never been used, CresCor Insulated Hot Cabinet for \$3,300 OBO. [Click here to view photo](#) and [learn more about this product](#). Interested parties should contact SarahGennie Colazio at [sarahgennie.colazio@windsorcharteracademy.org](mailto:sarahgennie.colazio@windsorcharteracademy.org).

### **Folding Cafeteria Lunch Tables For Sale**

Peak Children's Academy in Woodland Park is selling cafeteria lunch tables. There are two tables for sale; each costing \$400. Each table top measures approximately 6' x 30". The tables are in good condition and can be picked up in Woodland Park. [Click here to view photos](#). Please contact Connie Paul at 719-687-6368 or [connie@peakchildrensacademy.com](mailto:connie@peakchildrensacademy.com) to learn more.

### **Used School Furniture Available**

Fort Lupton High School is replacing furniture in one wing of their school and looking to donate the older furniture. Furniture should be removed on May 20 and May 21. Please contact Geoff Lee, RLH Engineering, at [glee@rlhengineering.com](mailto:glee@rlhengineering.com) or 970-686-5695 to learn more.

## **News Articles**

### Why Colorado Was Stiffing its Schools \$30M in Tax Revenues - and Why They Voted to Fix It

*the74 - May 11, 2017*

The bipartisan compromise measure, which supporters say is the first of its kind in the nation, would address an estimated \$34 million inequity in local tax increases. It came a day after the University of Arkansas released a study that found charter schools receive \$5,721 less per pupil on average than their district counterparts - a 29 percent funding gap.

### "Historic" Colorado charter school funding measure headed for governor's signature

*The Denver Post - May 10, 2017*

House Bill 1375, first introduced Monday, requires school districts to develop a plan by the 2019-20 school year to equitably share voter-approved tax increases - called mill levy overrides - with charter schools.

Five months ago Colorado schools were bracing for the worst. Here's how much money

they'll get next year.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 10, 2017*

Despite gloomy economic forecasts, Colorado lawmakers managed to keep the state's school funding shortfall from growing this year.

Colorado charter school funding compromise off to the governor for his signature

*The Gazette - May 10, 2017*

A last-minute compromise to fund charter schools crossed the finish line Wednesday after days of back-and-forth negotiations in the Legislature.

Legislature OKs controversial charter school funding bill

*The Durango Herald - May 10, 2017*

House Bill 1375, which requires school districts to allocate to charter schools at least 95 percent of the per pupil funding from mill levies, was introduced Monday in the House and passed Wednesday by the Senate on a 31-4 vote.

Shrek the Musical, Jr. at Parker Performing Arts School

*Fox31 Denver - May 10, 2017*

It's that time of year where all the schools here in Colorado are getting in their last events and performances. You're not going to want to miss the first ever musical production at the Parker Performing Arts School. They are featuring Shrek the Musical Jr.. They had their opening weekend last week, and this weekend they have quite a few more performances.

Some Denver schools beat the odds, but new report says more gains needed districtwide

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 9, 2017*

Denver Public Schools is seen nationally as an urban success story, racking up kudos for its academic growth, robust school choice process and teacher leadership programs.

Two Colorado Springs charter schools prepare to swap buildings

*The Gazette - May 9, 2017*

In a somewhat unusual turn of events, two charter schools in Colorado Springs are preparing to swap buildings.

Meet the next president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 8, 2017*

Ben Lindquist, whose charter school experience ranges from working in philanthropy to founding a school network and funding expansion of successful models, has been named the next president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools.

More Colorado high school graduates need remedial classes

*The Denver Post - May 8, 2017*

The number of Colorado high school graduates who needed to take remedial classes when they entered college went up for the second consecutive year last year, according to the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Who is Jason Glass, the man poised to take the reins at Jeffco Schools?

*The Denver Post - May 8, 2017*

Jason Glass is trading in the mountains of Vail and Beaver Creek for the foothills and flats of Jefferson County, as he moves from helming a 7,000-student school district with 25 schools to one with more than 150 schools and 86,000 kids.

Can a successful charter take over a failing peer and build an integrated school in Denver?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 8 , 2017*

To save the community that binds together families at Cesar Chavez Academy in northwest Denver, the charter school may need to do what sounds unthinkable: close.

After two years of debate, Colorado teen sexting bill heads to Gov. John Hickenlooper  
*The Denver Post - May 6, 2017*

A compromise teen sexting bill is heading to the desk of Colorado's governor after passing both chambers of the state's legislature and more than two years of fierce debate about how to address the complicated issue that's becoming more prevalent.

Colorado Springs arts supporters, teachers recognized at luncheon  
*The Gazette - April 27, 2017*

The leadership behind Ent Center for the Arts at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs received a standing ovation Thursday at the Arts Business Education Luncheon. Distinguished Administrator: Randy Zimmerman, principal, CIVA Charter High School, Colorado Springs District 11

## **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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Proof Positive that Charter Schools are Better

*Newsweek - May 12, 2017*

As fiercely as this debate has raged, the evidence has been steadily building that in fact it is the supporters of charters that have the better case to make. Now we have the final pieces of evidence to end this debate once and for all.

Colorado Passes Historic Bill Granting Charter Public School Students Equitable Access to Local Funding Stream

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - May 10, 2017*

Today, the Colorado General Assembly passed historic legislation, HB 1375, which grants charter public school students equitable access to local tax dollars raised through mill levy overrides for the first time in any state. Todd Ziebarth, National Alliance Senior Vice President of State Advocacy and Support, has released the following statement:

Apex Community School Coming to the Meadows

*Colorado Community Media - May 10, 2017*

After receiving a unanimous, bipartisan vote from the Douglas County School Board last October to approve their charter application, Apex Community School will open its doors in August of 2018! Apex is in the final design phase of the building and set to break ground in July for a new school in the Meadows, just west of Castle Rock Adventist Hospital.

SkyView Academy Choirs performed at Rockies opening

*YourHub - May 10, 2017*

The SkyView Academy Elementary choir of Highlands Ranch joined 12 other schools in kicking off the May 6, 2017 Colorado Rockies baseball game with the National Anthem.

[Academy of Advanced Learning Differentiates With Personalized Learning Program](#)  
*Academy of Advanced Learning - May 10, 2017*

While there does not seem to be a shared understanding of the definition of personalized learning in the academic world, Academy of Advanced Learning (AAL) is very clear on what it means for this free, K-8 public school opening in northwest Aurora for the 2017-2018 school year: a blend of teacher-directed and student-directed learning.

[Boys Club volleyball of SkyView Academy advances to state](#)  
*YourHub - May 10, 2017*

A talented group of SkyView Academy students playing club boys volleyball out of SkyView Academy, a PK-12 free public charter school in Highlands Ranch, has worked some magic in the two years since the team formed.

[First-of-its-Kind Charter Funding Equalization Bill to Become Law](#)  
*Colorado League of Charter Schools - May 10, 2017*

A new piece of bipartisan legislation that will provide more equal distribution of local mill levy override (MLO) dollars to charter public schools will soon become law.

[Equity in Colorado charter school funding a long time coming](#)  
*The Denver Post - May 9, 2017*

With one day remaining in the Colorado legislative session, there's a chance for state lawmakers to finally equalize funding for charter schools.

[Salida Del Sol Academy Board Announces New Executive Director](#)  
*Salida Del Sol Academy - May 9, 2017*

Salida del Sol Academy announces that Paul Kirkpatrick, a distinguished educator who serves as the Principal at University Middle Schools has been appointed to lead Salida del Sol Academy as the new Executive Director for the 2017-18 academic year. Kirkpatrick was hired to oversee that the school has the proper model implementation and curriculum, resources and partnerships to be a lasting, positive force in the community and to ensure SDSA provides a high-quality education to its 720 K-8 students.

[Himmelman Construction Breaks Ground on Lakewood Montessori School Project](#)  
*Himmelman Constructors, Inc. - May 8, 2017*

Himmelman Construction, Inc. (Himmelman), a privately held commercial General Contractor headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado, announced today the commencement of construction on Great Work Montessori School (Great Work) located at 5300 W. Center Avenue in Lakewood, CO.

[Did you know ... Charter Schools Serve ALL Students?](#)  
*National Alliance for Charter Public Schools - May 2, 2017*

Like their district peers, charter public schools are generally required to admit all students who want to enroll. If there are more students than available seats, the schools are generally required to hold lotteries, which randomly determine which students will be enrolled. Unlike magnet schools, charter public schools cannot selectively admit students.

## **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

### 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 | followed by end-of-year happy hour

**Location:** Colorado League of Charter Schools' Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

**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. [Click here to view the meeting agenda](#).

**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](#).

### **Two-Day Workshop: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

Formerly known as Response to Intervention

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, June 19 - Tuesday, June 20

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM each day

**Location:** Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

**Cost:** League Members: \$350 for one person and \$175 per additional attendee from the same school community; Non-members: \$450 for one person and \$17 per additional attendee

**Description:** MTSS is a comprehensive, student-centered assessment, systems, and intervention framework used to identify and support individual student academic or social emotional gaps and challenges. Attend this workshop to learn how to effectively select intervention strategies aligned with current evidence of student learning through a collaborative model that includes:

- Identifying, collecting and analyzing student data with a robust body of evidence
- Selecting instructional and social emotional Tier 1, 2, and 3 interventions aligned to appropriate skill gaps
- Monitoring student progress and setting appropriate goals
- Deepening your understanding of the principles of MTSS and best practices as

shared through national researched-based practices and real time case scenarios

- Prioritizing an action plan that includes next steps for your team or individual toolbox and capacity

Some of the content is provided by The Leadership and Learning Center.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Thursday, June 15.

**Facilitation of Quality Professional Development**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, June 21

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

**Location:** Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

**Description:** An overview will be presented on what successful PD facilitation is. This will allow us to build background knowledge about the components of quality PD that will lead to quality PD structures that can become systematized over time. We will then explore research based strategies for teaching adult learners and analyze how these fit within PD structures. We will also have time to plan and create think partnerships about how to lead effective professional development sessions.

**Professional Development Objectives:**

- Building an overview of quality facilitation of professional development structures, descriptions, and strategies.
- Learning how to support all adult learners to successfully connect and implement new learning.

**Audience:** Teachers, Teacher Leaders, PD Coordinators, Administrators, or anyone without a teaching or facilitation background that needs to deliver information over time in a school setting.

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

**Let us know if your school is in the news! Please send any articles, comments, or questions to [Kerri Barclay](#).**

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