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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



May 19, 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](mailto:oihmoda@coloradoleague.org).

**Update Your Student Internet and Mobile Device Policies**

House Bill 1302 was approved and is expected to be signed into law by the Governor. As reported in The Denver Post on May 6, the legislation would make consensual exchanges of nude images by children a civil infraction and gives prosecutors a range of options - from a petty offense to a felony - to use against teens who possess or distribute sexts against a victim's will. The bill requires the school safety resource center to make available a sexting curriculum for school districts [charter schools] to use. Contact Margaret M. Ochoa, J.D., Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist, CO School Safety Resource Center at [margaret.ochoa@state.co.us](mailto:margaret.ochoa@state.co.us) or 303-239-4439 with

questions.

### **Applications Open for Colorado Teacher of the Year**

Each year the Colorado Teacher of the Year (TOY) Program honors an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled K-12 classroom teacher to represent the entire state profession. Nominate an outstanding teacher you know today! The 2018 Colorado TOY application is due Thursday, June 1, 2017. <http://bit.ly/COTOYnom>

### **Nominate an Outstanding Youth or Youth Group**

National Philanthropy Day in Colorado is accepting nominations for outstanding youth and youth groups (aged 18 and younger). National Philanthropy Day pays tribute to youth demonstrating an outstanding commitment to philanthropy and volunteerism. The Outstanding Youth and Outstanding Youth Group winners each receive a \$2,500 cash award. Help recognize the youth inspiring the next generation of philanthropists by submitting a nomination for one of these impactful awards. Nomination forms and additional information are available at [afpcc.org](http://afpcc.org). Nominations are due by 5:00 PM on July 17.

### **Modular Classrooms/Portables For Sale**

The Classical Academy in Colorado Springs is selling four modular buildings (also known as portables). All four are in great shape and have been used as both classrooms and office space. Each modular is 1,440 square feet, can house two classrooms, and has two electric HVAC units. While these are "dry" units (i.e. there are no bathrooms inside), plumbing could be added (have never had moisture, leaks, or critter problems with any of them!) Procuring a portable from a vendor can easily run upwards of \$75K-\$100K. Price for these is extremely negotiable and will be far less than that, as we need them all gone by the end of June. Buyer will be responsible for all removal and transportation costs. [Click here to view photos](#). Contact David Tubb at [dtubb@asd20.org](mailto:dtubb@asd20.org) or 719-488-6244 with questions or to set up a tour.

### **Modular Classroom For Sale**

North Star Academy Charter School in Parker is selling a modular classroom. It was built in 1996 and they've had it since 2008. It's in good condition and its features include: 1,792 square feet, two classrooms (no restroom), extra windows, extra sound proofing. The modular classroom includes the ramp and stairs in the price. It is selling for \$10,000 OBO. If interested, please contact Mary Edwards at [medwards@nstaracademy.org](mailto:medwards@nstaracademy.org). [Click here to view photo](#).

### **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.

### **High Point Academy Training Session For Teachers - August 8**

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 on Tuesday, August 8 from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Please contact Reyne Hirano at [rhirano@highpointacademy.net](mailto:rhirano@highpointacademy.net) if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

### **Capturing Kids' Hearts - August 10 and 11**

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 or 970-373-5994.

## News Articles

### Denver Public Schools' glaring conflict: both authorizing and operating schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 18, 2017*

The leader of a Wyoming-based charter school is asking the Denver school board to reject a recommendation that his application to open a school in the city be denied, saying he suspects it's based on "prior controversy" rather than the school's merits.

### Denver charter applicant alleges schools isn't getting a fair shot because of 'prior controversy'

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 18, 2017*

The leader of a Wyoming-based charter school is asking the Denver school board to reject a recommendation that his application to open a school in the city be denied, saying he suspects it's based on "prior controversy" rather than the school's merits.

### GALS school creating well-rounded and fit students

*Denver 7 News - May 18, 2017*

Colorado's only all-girl public school is creating opportunities for students to learn both inside and outside the classroom. Girls Athletic Leadership Schools, known as GALS, is Denver Public Schools tuition-free charter school.

### 2017 graduation calendar for Colorado Springs-area high schools, colleges

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - May 17, 2017*

It will soon be celebration time for thousands of high school and college students around Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region. The Gazette will have photo galleries from nearly all area schools' graduations.

### Report: Trump education budget would create a Race to the Top for school choice

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 17, 2017*

The Trump administration appears to be going ahead with a \$1 billion effort to push districts to allow school choice, according to a report in the Washington Post.

### Why so negative? Colorado lawmakers seek to rebrand controversial tool that limits spending on schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 17, 2017*

Colorado lawmakers are tired of hearing about the "negative factor." So they changed its name - at least in statute.

### Amid Colorado's push to get child care providers to seek higher ratings, some say, 'No thanks'

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 16, 2017*

Dede Beardsley says she's always received rave reviews about the Montessori preschool and kindergarten program she's led in Boulder for nearly four decades.

### Jeffco board unanimously approves three-year contract for new superintendent

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 16, 2017*

The school board for Jeffco Public Schools voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a contract that will pay incoming Superintendent Jason Glass \$265,000 a year. The contract lacks the performance-pay clauses that were a key component of his predecessor's deal.

Aurora school board approves resolution to protect immigrant students, though some raise questions

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 16, 2017*

The Aurora school board unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday aimed at helping immigrant students feel safer, but not before fault lines emerged over its title and intent.

Lawmakers Find More Money For Schools, Start Preparing For Looming Crisis

*Colorado Public Radio - May 15, 2017*

Public schools in Colorado will get more money from the state next year. But many lawmakers see a crisis coming down the road when it comes to funding for kindergarten through high school, so they passed a bipartisan bill to study school finance issues, including the complicated school funding formula in Colorado, over the next two years.

Down to two: University Prep no longer an option to replace low-performing Amesse Elementary

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 15, 2017*

University Prep charter school is no longer in the running to replace Denver's low-performing Amesse Elementary School, leaving another charter school and a proposed district-run school as the two applicants remaining.

How Jeffco's pick for superintendent changed his mind about education reform

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 15, 2017*

When Jason Glass was recruited to oversee more than 300 Iowa school districts as the state's director of education, he was known for his work in Colorado's Eagle County tying teacher pay to student performance.

Colorado schools were a hot topic at the state Capitol this year. Here's what lawmakers did.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 12, 2017*

Colorado lawmakers this week are celebrating major education-related policy wins, including finding more money for public schools.

Charter Schools Receive \$5,721 Less Per Student Than District Schools, New Research Finds

*The 74 - May 10, 2017*

From Camden, New Jersey, to Los Angeles, funding for charter schools continues to lag behind that of traditional public schools in many cities by an average of \$5,721 per student, according to a new report from researchers at the University of Arkansas.

## **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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Colorado continues to lead the way on charter schools and education reform

The Denver Post - May 17, 2017

After an incredible display of bipartisan cooperation in the closing moments of the most

recent legislative session, Colorado is again a national leader in student and family-centered education reform.

[Suicide awareness: Summit is a start, but there is much to be learned to help those most in need](#)

The Durango Herald - May 17, 2017

The presenter at last week's suicide awareness session at Miller Middle School made clear how important it is to speak up when sensing that someone may be contemplating taking his or her own life, and that can be done without any experience or training.

[Colo. Lawmakers Pass Bill Requiring School Districts Split Funds With Charters](#)

Education Week - May 12, 2017

Charter school advocates say a bill passed by the Colorado General Assembly on Wednesday that requires school districts to split local tax dollars with charter schools is the first of its kind in the nation.

[Character.org Designates 83 Schools 4 Districts as 2017 National Schools of Character](#)

Parker Core Knowledge Charter School - May 8, 2017

Character.org, the nonprofit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world, today designated 83 schools and 4 districts from 21 states as 2017 National Schools and Districts of Character.

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

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.

Providing Literacy Through Equity Seminar

Hosted by Achieve3000

Date: Monday, June 5

Time: 8:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Location: Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla Street, Colorado Springs

Description: As our guest, you'll enjoy a complimentary breakfast & lunch.

With equity of access to core instruction, all students can build the strong literacy skills needed for success in school and beyond. How can Colorado educators ensure equity and empower every student to meet the Colorado Academic Standards and perform on the PARCC, PSAT and SAT? Join Pati Montgomery, one of the visionaries behind the READ Act, as she shares proven strategies for providing literacy through equity - and learn how Achieve3000's blended, differentiated approach is helping to make this vision a reality for ALL students.

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

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.

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, June 26

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$100 for one person and \$75 each additional attendee;
Non-Members: \$125 for one person and \$75 each additional attendee

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

Description: School leaders (principals, executive directors, etc.) are ultimately responsible for the operation and compliance of special education programming in their schools. Therefore, it is essential that school leaders, in addition to special education teachers/coordinators, understand the IDEA requirements for special education services to ensure their school is in compliance with these requirements. This workshop is designed to equip school leaders with 8 critical strategies for managing special education compliance.

Audience: School Leaders, Teachers, Instructional Staff, SPED Teachers and

Coordinators, etc.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, June 21. Event contingent on a minimum of 8 attendees.

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

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