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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



May 26, 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.

**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.

### **Choral Risers For Sale**

Parker Core Knowledge Charter School is selling [Wenger Tourmaster Choral Risers](#) for \$1500 (retail around \$4600). There are 4 - 4' X 18" three step risers with guard rails in used but in good condition. [Click here to view](#). For further specifications and technical information, please contact Krystal Myers at [kmyers@ckcs.net](mailto:kmyers@ckcs.net).

### **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](#).

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

High Point Academy in Aurora will be hosting a training session for teachers, coaches, administrators based on the work of Lucy Calkins and the Units of Study Reading curriculum 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 this unique professional development. This all day training will be facilitated by an expert from Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project and 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.

## **News Articles**

[Educators working on creating more bilingual students worry new state requirements aren't high enough](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 25, 2017*

Colorado educators who led the way in developing high school diploma endorsements recognizing bilingual students worry that new legislation establishing statewide standards for such "seals of biliteracy" sets the bar too low.

[Colorado Ninth Graders will Take PSAT 8/9 Next Year](#)

*Pagosa Daily Post - May 25, 2017*

Colorado ninth-graders will take the PSAT 8/9 as the statewide assessment in English language arts and math beginning in the spring of 2018, replacing the Colorado

Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests in those subjects for the ninth grade.

### More Colorado School Districts Turn To Subsidized Housing To Retain Teachers

*KUNC - May 25, 2017*

Trust an architect to hop on board a flat bed trailer and paint a vivid picture of a sustainable -- if not snug -- future house.

### Colorado gets good marks on preschool access for 3-year-olds, not so much on funding

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 24, 2017*

While Colorado ranks near the back of the pack for state preschool funding, it gets relatively high marks for providing preschool access to the state's 3-year-olds, according to a report released Wednesday by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

### A report found black students and teachers in Denver face inequities. Can these 11 recommendations make a difference?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 24, 2017*

Helping African-American families understand their children's school choices, offering signing bonuses to prospective black teachers and making student discipline data count in school ratings are among the recommendations of a task force that tackled inequities faced by African-American students and educators in Denver.

### Denver school board race opens up as Rosemary Rodriguez announces she won't seek re-election

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 24, 2017*

Denver school board member Rosemary Rodriguez said Wednesday that she is not running for re-election, putting her southwest Denver seat up for grabs in what will likely be a contentious school board campaign this fall with control of the board at stake.

### Aurora Public Schools is cutting funding to six schools with special autonomy while it figures out a long-term fix

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 23, 2017*

A half-dozen Aurora public schools that operate under arrangements that give them more freedom to innovate are facing a total of \$2 million in budget cuts next school year and an uncertain future as district officials reconsider how they are funded.

### Betsy DeVos promises an expansive school choice plan, says opting out would be 'terrible mistake' for states

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 22, 2017*

In a speech to the advocacy group she previously led, Betsy DeVos hinted that an aggressive plan to expand public funding of private schools through the federal government is on the way.

### Loveland triplets graduate from Colorado Early Colleges with high school diplomas and associate's degrees

*The Denver Post - May 22, 2017*

Lisa Bicknell watched her triplets prepare for their high school graduation Friday, reflecting on hardships they overcame and medical conditions that, more than once, doctors predicted they wouldn't survive.

### Study of schools in Denver, New York show special needs students less likely to leave charters

*The Denver Post via The AP - May 22, 2017*

Five-year-old Nico Rosenblatt cannot speak and struggles to learn because of a rare genetic condition, yet thrives when surrounded by other children in a regular classroom, according to his parents.

Governor Hickenlooper visits Durango, signs education bill

*The Durango Herald - May 21, 2017*

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper visited Durango on Sunday to sign a new bill that seeks to address teacher shortages throughout the state.

From attitude to gratitude: Atlas Prep fields its first graduating class

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - May 20, 2017*

In 2006, three young men dreamed of creating a charter school in Colorado Springs that would give students from poor families the same kind of quality education and opportunities as their more affluent peers.

Colorado Teacher of the Year nomination process open

*Summit Daily - May 20, 2017*

The nomination process for the 2018 Colorado Teacher of the Year award is now open, and the state's Department of Education is accepting applications.

These 20 schools just won approval from the Denver school board

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 19, 2017*

The Denver school board Thursday unanimously approved 11 new elementary charter schools, all of which are part of charter networks that already have a presence in the city.

## 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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Denver Public Schools Board Approves New KIPP Elementary School for Southwest Denver

KIPP Colorado Schools - May 23, 2017

On Thursday, May 18th, the Denver Public Schools Board unanimously voted to approve the application for KIPP Sunshine Peak Elementary. The new school will initially educate students in Pre-K3 through second grade and will grow to educate students in Pre-K3 through fourth grade in Southwest Denver.

National Alliance Statement on White House's Proposed FY18 Budget

National Alliance for Charter Public Schools - May 23, 2017

Today, the White House released its proposed FY2018 budget, which includes a \$158 million increase for charter schools over FY2017 funding. National Alliance President and CEO Nina Rees has released the following statement:

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 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: Brief Overview of Upcoming Training - Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, May 31

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Cost: Free

Location: Webinar/Online

Description: During this webinar, attendees will gain a better understanding of the upcoming event, Facilitation of Quality Professional Development, which will explore successful professional development facilitation. This 30-45 minute webinar is intended to provide participants a brief synopsis of what to expect at this all day workshop taking place next month. If you'd like to register for the training itself, please visit <http://coloradoleague.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=957344>.

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

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

Note: A complimentary breakfast & lunch will be provided.

Description: 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: During this workshop, attendees will explore an overview of successful professional development facilitation. This will allow attendees to build background knowledge about the components of quality PD that will lead to superior PD structures that can become systematized over time. Participants will also examine research-based strategies for teaching adult learners and analyze how these fit within PD structures. Time will be allotted 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.

Principal Leadership: Where Do I Start? A Workshop for First Year Administrators

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, June 28

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Denver

Cost: \$175 per person

Description: This workshop will provide attendees with tools and processes to get organized and focused on creating a successful plan of action during year one as a charter school administrator. Tools will include a month-by-month calendar of essentials, shared vision and mission development, and the creation of major improvement strategies with action steps.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, June 26. Event is contingent on a minimum of 6 registrants.

Instructional Coaching Practices

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 8

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: This workshop will focus on two instructional coaching practices: 1.) Observation/Feedback Cycles, and 2.) Data Review Meetings. Participants will:

- Learn and apply an observation/feedback protocol called the 6 Steps for Effective Feedback
- Determine what to coach along with how to coach by digging into the management and rigor trajectories for new teachers
- Master and apply a simple protocol for engaging in 1:1 data meetings that harness the standard-based teaching and learning cycle
- Learn about tools and resources for ensuring accountability loops and tracking teacher growth

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 6.

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

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