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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



May 5, 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**

**Regional Workshops: Understanding & Interpreting PSAT/SAT Data & Reports**

Prior to the release of CO PSAT™ 10 and CO SAT™ school day scores in June, the College Board will host a series of free workshops throughout the state for Colorado educators. These workshops will show educators how they and their students can use the interactive features built into the College Board reporting portal to access and understand scores. Workshop topics include: Managing and creating user access to reporting tools and an overview of available reports; Educator Portal tools for teachers to assess their students' progress and plan instruction; Understanding College Board resources including BigFuture™; Tips and guidelines to help students with creating College Board student accounts and free SAT practice through Khan Academy® Workshops are free, but registration is required. Dates and locations are included within the registration form. Live webinars are available for those unable to attend in person. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**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.

### **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.

### **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 interested, please email James at [James.nims@tworiverscs.org](mailto:James.nims@tworiverscs.org) to learn more.

## **News Articles**

### Charter school funding fight - and a contentious amendment - shake up Colorado school finance debate

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 4, 2017*

Meanwhile, the Democratic chair of the House Education Committee said she is seeking a last-minute legislative compromise on charter school funding.

### Colorado schools can't sue to overturn Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, judge rules

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 4, 2017*

Advocates for greater school funding were dealt a blow Thursday after a U.S. District Court judge ruled they didn't have standing in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the state's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

### Public School Budget Battle Coming Down to the Wire

*CBSDenver - May 3, 2017*

The issue is whether public charter schools should receive an equal cut of local tax dollars. Under the current budget plan, charter schools do not get the same amount of funding as other public schools. State Sen. Angela Williams calls it discrimination.

### Two Colorado educators spent months crafting a piece of legislation. Now it's about to become state law.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 3, 2017*

The bill creates a special high school diploma that shows colleges and employers that graduates are proficient in a blend of coursework that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. The legislation is the byproduct of a year-long policy fellowship run by the national education reform nonprofit America Achieves.

### Local students break dress code to raise funds for service dog nonprofit

*Parker Chronicle - May 3, 2017*

Students at North Star Academy recently raised over \$1,000 for the group paws4vets, a nonprofit in North Carolina that connects children with disabilities and veterans with

post-traumatic stress disorder to assistance dogs at no cost to individuals they help.

Colorado rural school aid bill turns into tug-of-war about who should get how much  
*The Denver Post - May 2, 2017*

A bill that would have extended a big financial lifeline to rural schools is being overhauled, with less money earmarked for rural districts and more for schools statewide.

Unpaid school fines? In Colorado, it's no longer an obstacle to getting your transcripts  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 2, 2017*

Colorado schools will no longer be allowed to withhold students' transcripts or prohibit them from participating in graduation ceremonies if they have unpaid fines.

Bill bolsters college savings and keeping teachers in rural Colorado  
*The Denver Post - May 2, 2017*

A bill aimed at helping middle class Coloradans save for college and in recruiting teachers for rural schools passed the State House Tuesday with a 40-25 vote.

The Colorado State Board of Education is getting more authority to reject waiver requests

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 2, 2017*

Colorado schools and districts seeking flexibility from state law will need to make a more compelling case after state lawmakers Tuesday gave the State Board of Education greater authority to reject such requests.

Peak to Peak: Why this Colorado school is the best in the state

*Denver 7 News - May 1, 2017*

Peak to Peak Charter School consistently ranks among the best in the nation and boasts a 100 percent graduation rate. But what's the secret behind the Lafayette school's success?

Jeffco schools tapping Eagle County superintendent to lead 86,000-student district

*The Denver Post - May 1, 2017*

Leaders of Colorado's second-largest school district are staying close to home in their choice for the next superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools, announcing Monday evening that Eagle County Schools Superintendent Jason E. Glass is the sole finalist to head the 86,000-student district.

Denver-based DSST named finalist for national charter school prize

*Chalkbeat Colorado - May 1, 2017*

Denver-based DSST Public Schools has been named one of three finalists for a prestigious national prize recognizing large charter school networks with records of high academic achievement, especially with low-income students and students of color.

'Buddy Bench' honors lost classmate, helps kids find playmate

*9News - May 1, 2017*

At Flagstaff Academy in Longmont, having a friend on the playground can have benefits. For student Odin Mitchem, having a friend was meaningful.

Amendment to school finance act leads to squabble

*The Durango Herald - April 28, 2017*

The annual decision on how much state funding school districts will get for each pupil is eagerly awaited as they prepare their budgets.

At NAACP hearing on charter school moratorium, foes and fans find common ground  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - April 28, 2017*

When the NAACP called for a moratorium on charter schools last fall, the group's president and CEO Cornell Brooks said the group wanted a "reasoned pause," not a "doomsday destruction" of charters.

## **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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Why Charter School Boards are Key to School Success

The74 - May 4, 2017

This week is National Charter Schools Week, a time to celebrate the teachers, students, school leaders, and others who make public charter schools such a vibrant part of America's public education landscape. Yet we often fail to celebrate some of the most important leaders in the charter school movement. These are the men and women who volunteer their time to serve on charter school boards.

Public School Choice as Competitive Advantage: A Look at Denver Public Schools

EducationNext - May 2, 2017

This investment has yielded some truly remarkable charter schools and networks. Among the most noteworthy is DSST Public Schools (DSST), which yesterday was named a finalist for the prestigious Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools. The announcement, which took place on the first day of National Charter Schools Week (May 1-5), highlighted DSST's academic outcomes, especially among low-income students and students of color.

Want to Know Why I Came Back to Teach at This Denver Charter School? Equity.

Education Post - May 1, 2017

I could not imagine working anywhere else. DSST is a cauldron of knowledge and growth, where teachers feel empowered to build strong relationships with students through relevant content and regular practice of our core values.

Middle School Science Bowl Team from Ridgeview Classical Schools Places in National Competition

Ridgeview Classical Schools - May 1, 2017

Coach Phillip Hayhurst has been teaching science at Ridgeview for the past ten years.

Excel Academy Charter School 7th Grade Girls Named State Winners

Excel Academy Charter School - May 1, 2017

The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) today announced 7th grade Excel Coders from Arvada, CO as a 1st place state winner in the 15th annual eCYBERMISSION competition - one of several science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program.

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

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.

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.

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