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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



June 23, 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**

**EZVolunteer Tracking and Screening - Limited Time Offer: June - July**

The League and Relatrix, a Colorado-based company, have partnered to offer League Members the EZVolunteer online platform to register, screen and track volunteers at your school. The terms of this promotion include free setup of your EZVolunteer website and database, PLUS a 10% discount off the annual software service fees. EZVolunteer enables your school to sign-up volunteers from your website; email them about upcoming events; let them register online; and track their volunteer time, both on-campus and off. This offer also includes Kiosk sign-in software for volunteers that enter your school, so you can track who's on campus and for what purpose. For a quick overview of EZVolunteer, [click here](#). Questions? Contact Mark Franke at 720-989-8195 or mfranke@relatrix.com and visit the [EZVolunteer website](#). [Click here](#) to place your order by July 30.

**Free Mall Kiosk**

Liberty Common High School in Fort Collins is giving away a mall kiosk in great condition. [Click here to view](#). This kiosk is perfect for student council/student-life, athletic events or theater programs. If interested, please contact Sarah Hunt at sarah.hunt@libertycommon.org.

### **Free MR18 Cisco Meraki Wireless Access Points**

Cherry Creek Academy in Englewood recently upgraded their Wireless Access Points and have 20 MR18 Cisco Meraki Wireless Access Points available to donate to your school. [Click here to learn more](#). If you have any questions or are interested in picking them up, please email Hethyr Fouse at hfouse@cherrycreekacademy.org.

### **Room Dividers For Sale**

New Vision Charter School in Loveland is selling two new room dividers. Room divider (by Versare Products) specifics include: 360 Portable Partition, Opal Polycarbonate - 7'6" high x 19'6" long, each panel rotates 360 degrees for infinite configuration possibilities using a patented 360 degree hinge, patented full panel end member with locking caster, model number is RD7900P. The divider costs \$1200 each; \$2400 for both. Dividers can be seen by appointment only. Contact Pat at psweat@newvisioncharterschool.org to schedule appointment.

### **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.

## **News Articles**

### Law says Colorado public-charter schools will get equal funding

*Fox 21 News - June 22, 2017*

After the Governor's approval earlier this month, a bill requires local tax increase dollars to fund all district schools in Colorado. This new bill is the first of its kind in the nation that requires school districts around the state to distribute local tax revenue for education such as mill levies to be distributed equally, among every school.

### Big assignment for group of Colorado education leaders: rethink the state's education priorities

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 22, 2017*

A newly constituted group of educators, lawmakers and state officials led by Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne will be charged with creating a sweeping new strategic plan for education in Colorado.

### Colorado Springs schools still awaiting windfall from marijuana taxes

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - June 22, 2017*

Five years after Colorado voters legalized recreational marijuana with the understanding that some of the taxes collected from sales would help public schools, many education officials are still saying, "Show me the money."

### As Denver gentrifies, which neighborhoods are losing public school students?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 22, 2017*

Those changes affect Denver Public Schools, which has been the fastest-growing urban school district in the country. But that growth is slowing. Birth rates are down and many of the new transplants responsible for Denver's population boom don't have kids.

### Public transportation won't solve Denver's school choice woes, study finds

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 21, 2017*

Providing all Denver middle and high school students with free public transportation is unlikely to result in equal access to the city's best schools, according to a new analysis from the Center on Reinventing Public Education in Washington state.

APS OKs pact to open 4 Denver School of Science and Technology charter schools in Aurora

*Aurora Sentinel - June 21, 2017*

A Denver charter school network pitching four new schools in Aurora had its application approved Tuesday by the Aurora Public Schools board - despite concerns by the local teacher union about the long-term effects of adding more charter schools to the APS system.

I dropped out of school in Denver at 13. Here's how I ended up back in the classroom helping kids learn.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 20, 2017*

Every day when I greet the young children walking into the pre-kindergarten classroom at Rocky Mountain Prep, where I'm a teaching assistant, I wonder what my middle school teachers would think if they could see me now.

Denver's student discipline policy will limit suspensions and expulsions in early grades

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 19, 2017*

The Denver school board voted unanimously Monday to revise its student discipline policy to limit suspensions and expulsions of preschool through third-grade students.

Senate Republicans to lead Colorado Springs rally for charter schools

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - June 19, 2017*

Republicans in the Colorado legislature are expected to turn out strong Thursday for a lunchtime rally for charter schools in Colorado Springs.

Denver area schools continue to battle segregation and related issues

*The Denver Post - June 19, 2017*

The Denver metro area is home to some of the most segregated school districts in the state - and the nation - not because of Jim Crow-like laws but deep-rooted economic and racial schisms that keep white, black and Latino students separate but not equal.

The Juniper School prepares for August opening

*The Durango Herald - June 15, 2017*

The Juniper School, a new charter elementary school, will open Aug. 28 for the 2017-18 school year after being delayed a year because it did not receive a startup grant from the Colorado Department of Education.

## **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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Let's hold schools accountable even after PARCC

The Denver Post - June 19, 2017

Colorado is changing its statewide education assessments again. Hopefully, this time a long-lasting solution is found to the persistent problem of accurately and meaningfully measuring our kids' learning and holding educators accountable for poor performance.

[Coram's charter school vote was wrong](#)

The Durango Herald - June 17, 2017

State Sen. Don Coram (R-Montrose) wrote a guest column regarding his vote on Senate Bill 61, the bill to equalize funding for public charter school students in Colorado.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

Below are some other great education reform news, blog and discussion sites that may be of interest:

[Another View](#)

[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

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.

Onboarding Your Charter School - Summer 2017

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, July 11

Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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

Cost: \$75 per group

Description: Recently approved charter schools with a planned 2018 opening won't want to miss this training! Onboarding is for founding teams/governing boards of newly approved charter schools. This workshop will guide teams as they navigate through the complexities of the startup phase; presenting a clear path forward as your school moves from theory to reality. There will be morning workshops and customized, afternoon "office hours" with League staff across essential areas of school startup. Onboarding is designed to help schools address their application while gaining critical information and resources to better ensure a solid foundation for their school.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, July 7.

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, August 2

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$225 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

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

Description: In this professional development session, participants will create a product called the "Data Team Action Plan" as an end outcome. Through various readings, use of research-based resources and explicit modeling, participants will build background knowledge about data team structures. The "Data Team Action Plan" will be written as a data teams implementation plan to support data teams over time in your school as well as engage in intervention based instructional strategies that will support data teams next steps.

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, July 28.

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 4

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: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: Are students displaying challenging behaviors that impact their learning and the learning of others? Not sure where to go next? This workshop is designed to enable school administrators, special education teachers, and other stakeholders to craft effective Tier II and Tier III behavior intervention plans for struggling students. Additionally, the workshop will provide training on Functional Behavioral Assessments, an essential component of the IEP process when a behavioral or developmental disorder is suspected. School personnel will take away several resources for best practices in behavior interventions including:

- Data collection tools
- Behavior change monitoring tools
- Strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS
- Social emotional learning intervention programs
- Sample MTSS structures for behavior/social emotional learning

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, August 2.

Restorative Practices Workshop

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Thursday, August 10 - Friday, August 11

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Location: Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling Street, Wheat Ridge

Description: Day one of this workshop will provide a philosophical overview of restorative practices in schools and the rationale as to why this will help with discipline issues, positive school climate, data tracking and aligning your RTI/PBIS programs. Designed particularly for administrators. Day two of the workshop will focus on communication skills, restorative practices and practical strategies that can be used

immediately by teachers, counselors, security and administrative staff that want to improve relationships, behavior, and reduce discipline incidents in the classroom and hallways. This interactive workshop presents a spectrum of restorative techniques, offers implementation ideas, and explains how the process works. Designed for teachers and others who will be implementing restorative practices in their schools.

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

Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 11

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: Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processes of reading. Participants will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle that includes:

- Collecting various screeners that assess the different processes of reading.
- Plotting and analyzing screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Triangulating data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Prioritizing instruction through a problem solving process.
- Implementing prioritized instruction and progress monitoring goals/objectives.
- Reviewing progress monitoring and adjusting groupings and instructional plans.

In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of reading processes and building a stronger skill set in data-driven instruction, participants will learn instructional best practices and evidence-based programming options for specialized instruction in reading and writing.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, August 9.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Legal Seminar - Friday, October 27

Charter School Law Institute will be running a one-day in-depth legal seminar on emerging federal and state civil rights issues. Through a combination of lectures and small-group breakout sessions led by local and national experienced legal counsel, they will: examine how to navigate immigration issues facing students and schools; learn how the US Supreme Court is raising expectations for public schools serving special education students; discuss how to prevent race discrimination, including unintentional and unconscious bias; review state and federal laws regarding LGBT students; and address issues specific to school discipline, bullying, harassment and sexual violence. Together, they will tackle the most cutting edge legal questions facing charter schools across the country. As an attendee, you will leave with concrete, practical strategies and tips on how to ensure you are in compliance of all related legal requirements and effectively serving all students. SAVE THE DATE!

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

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