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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**June 30, 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**

**Downtown Denver Expeditionary School Student Project Accepted into EL Education Models of Excellence Collection**

Downtown Denver Expeditionary School's fourth grade project *Just A Dream* has been accepted into the EL Education's Models of Excellence collection by the curation team at EL Education and Harvard. The collection is an amazing and very selective resource of exemplary student work open to educators across the country. [Click here](#) to view the work created by students that will be used as a model to raise questions, provoke thinking, and inspire excellence.

**Free Elementary Student Desks**

Golden View Classical Academy in Golden is giving away student desks for free. All desks need to be picked up at the school. There are several varieties of desks (all in good condition) available including: 8 Single combo student desk and chair, 176 single student desk with one cubby and adjustable legs and 73 double student desks with two cubbies and adjustable legs ([click here to view photos](#)). Please contact Kait Lochner at klochner@goldenviewclassical.org to learn more or schedule a pick up.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:psweat@newvisioncharterschool.org) to schedule appointment.

## **News Articles**

[Colorado, a closer look at how your school spends tax dollars is coming Friday](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 29, 2017*

Coloradans will have a chance to better understand how the state's public schools are spending tax dollars Friday when the state education department launches a new website that tracks annual financial data.

[Denver teachers union's strategy for this year's negotiations: Go big](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 29, 2017*

The Denver teachers union is taking a more bullish approach this year to negotiating its teachers contract, aided by a relatively new state law that requires bargaining sessions be open to the public and fueled by the notion that educators are fed up.

[An inside look at how the Koch brothers are flexing their political muscle to spread message of school choice, ESAs](#)

*The Denver Post - June 28, 2017*

In a nondescript office building on the north side of this conservative enclave, more than a dozen volunteers spent hours making calls to educate voters about a new initiative that will allow parents to use taxpayer dollars to send children to private schools.

[Year-long residencies for teachers are the hot new thing in teacher prep. But do they work?](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 28, 2017*

For years, education advocates, policymakers and scholars have been trying to put an end to the underprepared novice teacher.

[These 10 Colorado lawmakers are rethinking how the state pays for its public schools](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 27, 2017*

Ten Colorado lawmakers, many with longstanding ties to the education community, are set to begin debating the future of Colorado's school finance system.

[Supreme Court ruling gives Douglas County school voucher program new life](#)

The Denver Post - June 27, 2017

Backers of Douglas County's stalled school voucher program say it may have new life after a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday. The justices said the Colorado Supreme Court must reconsider its 2015 ruling that the Douglas County voucher program was unconstitutional.

These Teachers Are Learning Gun Skills To Protect Students, They Say

*NPR - June 25, 2017*

Will arming teachers make schools safer? While that debate continues across the country, this week more than a dozen school employees from around Colorado spent three days learning advanced gun skills at a shooting range outside of Denver.

Colorado teacher shortage edges near crisis

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - June 25, 2017*

Schools used to set their sights on spring hiring to fill teacher openings for the next school year. Not anymore.

In first for Aurora, charter school to run center for special education students

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 23, 2017*

When Rocky Mountain Prep replaces Fletcher Community School in Aurora, the charter school will become the first in the district to operate a center for students with special needs.

## **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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Charter school management and student success

*Thomas B. Fordham Institute - June 28, 2017*

Overall, charters also achieve the strongest results in middle school and high school. For example, middle schools that belong to CMOs achieve an additional fifty-seven days of learning in math. Finally, despite the generally positive effects associated with brick-and-mortar charters, like previous CREDO studies, this one finds that online CMOs have a worryingly negative impact on the average student, equivalent to the loss of approximately 120 days of learning in math each year.

Scholarships are a good use of proceeds from marijuana sales

*The Pueblo Chieftain - June 26, 2017*

We have to admit, it was a fun photo. Dozens of recent high school graduates -- and a few who have finished some college -- standing on the steps of the Pueblo County Courthouse recently, waiting to receive their \$2,000 scholarships.

ESSA Plans for Disadvantaged Students Under Microscope in New Analysis

*Education Week - June 23, 2017*

An education advocacy group has rated five states' plans for the Every Student Succeeds Act-and while Louisiana and New Mexico end up looking pretty good, Colorado and Illinois come out less rosy.

## 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

### 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.

**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. 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.

### **Classroom Strategies for Teaching English-Language Learners & Overview for English Language Development Planning**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, August 17

**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:** With the growing population of English Language Learners within our schools, it is essential that schools be prepared to meet the needs of ELL students. In order to do this, teachers and interventionists will need to understand the basic elements of WIDA standards, the features of an English Language Development Plan (ELDP), and the strategies to support learning. This training will provide an overview for creating an English Language Development Plan as well as how to utilize the WIDA standards and build a foundation for classroom strategies that can be incorporated into teaching English Language Learners. The training will focus on instructional strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners; something you will also be able to experience as a participant.

**Audience:** ELA teachers, ELD teachers, ELD Coordinators, Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Interventionists

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, August 14.

### **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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