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



**June 9, 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**

**Reading Volunteers Needed**

Roots Elementary in Denver needs YOU, a member of your family or your neighbor to be a reading volunteer. Together they'd like to build a reading community for their children. Volunteers share books with a student one-on-one, one hour, once a week. Only an enjoyment of being with kids is needed. They will help you choose the books and provide on-going support. If you are interested, please call the Roots office at 720-593-1338 or email Julie@partnersinliteracy.org. Roots is actively recruiting for school year 2017/2018 commencing in September.

**Teach Plus Policy Fellowship**

The Teach Plus Policy Fellowship is a highly selective leadership opportunity for outstanding Colorado teachers looking to deepen their knowledge of education policy and gain a voice in decisions that affect students and the teaching profession. One of the goals of the fellowship is to build a diverse cohort of teachers who represent rural, suburban and urban areas, as well as teachers from charter and non-charter schools. By doing this, it breaks down barriers that keep teachers from recognizing their shared professional responsibilities which builds and promotes a stronger profession. [Click here](#) to learn more and apply.

**Free Lockers**

Legacy Academy in Elizabeth is getting new lockers this summer and their former

lockers need new homes ASAP! They are all in working condition, but have definitely been used. [Click here to view](#). There are 23 double lockers remaining (46 individual lockers that are 36"x12"x18"). Please contact Kurt Naber at [kurt.naber@legacyk8.org](mailto:kurt.naber@legacyk8.org) for more information.

### **Play Structure For Sale**

The Denver Language School has a new, never-used 3-bay swing frame for sale for \$2500. All steel construction with a powder coated finish. Frame is made of 3.5" steel tubing. Assembly required. [Click here to view the structure](#). Please contact Camilla Modesitt for more information at [camilla@denverlanguageschool.org](mailto:camilla@denverlanguageschool.org).

### **Free Textbooks**

North Star Academy in Parker is giving away the following textbooks: 1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Shurley English textbooks including student textbooks, teacher's manuals and a number of other resources to go with the curriculum. They are also giving away Holt Science and Technology Integrated Science books including student textbooks, teacher's manuals and a number of other resources to go with the curriculum. Please contact Mary Edwards at [medwards@nstaracademy.org](mailto:medwards@nstaracademy.org) for more information.

### **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).

## **News Articles**

### [DSST charter network would open four new schools in Aurora under staff recommendation](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 7, 2017*

High-achieving Denver-based charter school network DSST is one step closer to expanding into Aurora after school district staff recommended school board approval of four new schools.

### [Do Mandatory Evaluations Contribute To Colorado's Teacher Shortage?](#)

*KUNC - June 7, 2017*

Colorado has some homework to do. A bill sponsored by Rep. Barbara McLachlan, D-Durango, recently signed into law by Gov. John Hickenlooper, requires the state to study the causes and possible solutions to its chronic teacher shortage.

### [Succeeds Prize Will Honor Colorado Schools & Educators with Nearly \\$100,000 in Cash Prizes](#)

*9News - June 7, 2017*

The Succeeds Prize - the most prestigious awards and recognition event for Colorado's public schools and educators - will give away nearly \$100,000 in cash prizes at a live reveal celebration on October 3, 2017 at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Denver.

### [Teachers unions across U.S. increase pressure for collective bargaining in charter schools](#)

*Washington Times - June 6, 2017*

Teachers unions increasingly are trying to unionize charter schools nationwide, an effort school choice advocates say will stymie the mission and success the nontraditional schools have delivered to struggling school systems.

### [Don Coram, Barbara McLachlan named 'Rural School Champions'](#)

*The Durango Herald - June 6, 2017*

Lawmakers Don Coram, R-Montrose, and Barbara McLachlan, D-Durango, where named Rural Schools Champions Monday evening by the Colorado Rural School Alliance during a reception at Fort Lewis College.

Trans teacher from Denver to tell his story in D.C.

*Colorado Politics - June 5, 2017*

Sam Long, a math teacher at the DSST charter school in Denver, was probably more nervous than any ninth-grader who had ever dared speak at part of the school assembly called What's Your Story. Long will tell the story at the U.S. Capitol Thursday and Friday as part of a 50-state lobby day coordinated by the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Gentrification is changing Denver's schools. This initiative aims to do something about it.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 5, 2017*

A citywide effort to review how rapid gentrification is changing Denver's public schools - and come up with ideas to combat the most pernicious effects - kicked off Monday.

Denver is trying to involve the community more in its school closure process. It hasn't been easy.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 5, 2017*

Comprised of parents and community members, the board will carry a strong voice in deciding which school - either McGlone or STRIVE - takes over low-performing Amesse Elementary in far northeast Denver, slated to be closed next spring. A separate review board will do the same for Greenlee Elementary in west Denver.

Colorado teacher shortage study gets underway

*The Durango Herald - June 4, 2017*

The state's Department of Higher Education is beginning its work to study teacher shortages after State Rep. Barbara McLachlan, D-Durango, sponsored a bill requiring it.

Students Learn How Bill Becomes Law From Gov. Hickenlooper

*CBS Denver - June 2, 2017*

Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a bill into law on Friday that ensures all children receive equitable funding regardless of where they attend school. It was a learning experience for the students at Rocky Mountain Prep who watched as the governor explained how a bill becomes a law.

## **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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Rhim: 4 Ways Philanthropy Can Set the Bar for Special Education in Charter Schools

*The74 - June 6, 2017*

Building on the evidence of success with students with disabilities I have seen in some charter schools, I urge the philanthropic community to help the sector more proactively change the story. It is time that funders expect and incentivize excellence for students

with disabilities by more intentionally incorporating special education into their grant-making processes and catalyzing innovation.

#### GUEST COLUMN: Colorado's charter schools are successful

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - June 5, 2017*

When Bristi Basu was accepted into the University of Denver on a full scholarship, it was a dream come true.

#### EDITORIAL: Law will create equal opportunities for children

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - June 2, 2017*

It is not just the Rocky Mountains and an enviable climate that distinguish Colorado as a desirable relocation state.

### **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**

### **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.

### **Board Basics: Legal Roles and Responsibilities**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter School*

**Date:** Friday, June 23

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (8:30 AM - Registration)

**Cost:** League Members: \$50 per school group; Non-Members: \$75 per school group

Location: RMCA, 4620 Antelope Ridge Drive, Colorado Springs

**Description:** This one day workshop will provide a foundation about the legal and basic board roles and responsibilities of charter board members **in a location convenient for southeastern Colorado charter schools.** Prospective and new board members are especially encouraged to attend to learn more about school board expectations and duties. During the first part of the day, an overview of a charter board's legal responsibilities as well as board members' basic roles and responsibilities will be discussed. During the afternoon portion of the training, a board level training of the federal and state required Emergency Operation Plan that each school must document and practice annually will be provided. Board members are encouraged to invite their administrators and business managers to attend the afternoon portion of this workshop.

**Audience:** Board Members, Administrators, and Business Managers

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, June 20.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 15 attendees.

### **Startup Weekend EDU Denver 2017**

*Powered by Google for Entrepreneurs*

**Date:** Friday, June 23 - Sunday, June 25

**Time:** Begins at 5:30 PM on Friday, June 23

**Cost:** Price varies

**Location:** Roots Elementary, 3350 Hudson Street, Denver

**Description:** Startup Weekend Education (SWEDU) is returning to Denver in 2017 for another exciting weekend of ideas, collaboration and innovation. SWEDU brings together people of all skill sets and experience levels to collaboratively launch tools, schools and learning spaces that reimagine the future of school and education more broadly. Everyone is welcome and no previous entrepreneurial experience is required. Colorado is home to a vibrant and growing community of education entrepreneurs. Join others to share stories and learn about new ideas that bring change in education! [See what it's all about!](#)

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Secondary Mathematics Standards Review and Collaborative Curriculum Mapping**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, July 26 - Thursday, July 27

**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 \$175 per additional attendee

**Description:** This workshop will provide a structured and collaborative setting for secondary math professional development where educators review and process the current Colorado Academic Standards for mathematics. Attendees will review resources that are available to implement the standards with fidelity while engaging in a curricular mapping process. Bring and share current curricular documents and

resources from your school as a part of this learning process (if available).

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, July 21.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 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.

### **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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