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COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**July 28, 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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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Items For Sale**

Aspen View Academy in Castle Rock has the following items for sale. \$50 each. Contact Dina Walton, HR Business Director at [dwalton@aspenviewacademy.org](mailto:dwalton@aspenviewacademy.org) for more information.

- 49 Dell OptiPlex 3010 desktop with Windows 7
- 28 Dell Monitors

**News Articles**

States Adopt STEM Seals for High School Diplomas

*Education Week - July 27, 2017*

So, while participating in a fellowship together, the two cooked up a solution: a STEM diploma endorsement awarded to high school students with a track record of strong achievement in those subjects. In May, Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the fruit of their labor into law.

6 problems the NAACP has with charter schools - and 5 of its ideas for how to reshape

the sector

*Chalkbeat - July 27, 2017*

The lengthy report, released Wednesday, allows for the fact that some charters are doing well, but also relates an exhaustive list of concerns. About 5 percent of the country's public school students attend charters, with an even larger share of black students, the focus of the NAACP report.

Kids get a leg up on college, and life, at King's Colorado Early Colleges

*Colorado Politics - July 27, 2017*

At a time in life when most former politicians are simply enjoying (or resenting) their retirement; when most successful entrepreneurs are savoring the fruits of their toils, Keith King has bolder aspirations. King, who has distinguished himself both in business and in public office, is shifting into high gear in his longtime quest for education reform.

Colorado's education plan earns cheers, jeers from national reform groups

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 27, 2017*

What's there to love, according to national education think-tanks? Colorado is taking seriously new requirements to include more information about how students are succeeding in school. What's there to gripe about? The state's plan is not very detailed and lacks strong goals for student achievement, which critics say raises questions about how it plans to improve schools.

Exclusive: Data Show Charter School Students Graduating From College at Three to Five Times National Average

*The 74 - July 26, 2017*

About a decade ago, 15 years into the public charter school movement, a few of the nation's top charter networks quietly upped the ante on their own strategic goals. No longer was it sufficient to keep students "on track" to college. Nor was it enough to enroll 100 percent of your graduates in colleges.

Denver town hall added to list of meetings about Colorado's teacher shortage

*The Denver Post - July 26, 2017*

Education officials are expanding their statewide search for solutions to Colorado's massive teacher shortage.

How Colorado could see more "blended learning," combining online courses and traditional teaching

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 24, 2017*

A new guide released Monday seeks to help Colorado schools successfully introduce blending learning, a growing practice combining traditional classroom instruction with online coursework.

Critics of vouchers say they're marred by racism and exacerbate segregation. Are they right?

*Chalkbeat Colorado - July 23, 2017*

Debates over "school choice" - or "privatization" to critics - were already heated.

Bill helps rural school districts facing staff shortage

*Fort Morgan times - July 23, 2017*

Rural and small school districts in Colorado are getting some help dealing with critical shortages of teachers, school bus drivers and school food service cooks thanks to legislation that creates new flexibility for PERA (public employees' retirement

association) service retirees.

Boulder Prep's summer immersion program to see expansion to fall

*Boulder Daily Camera - July 23, 2017*

Six Boulder Preparatory students are spending the week immersed in cooking, making everything from homemade bread to braised lamb to a traditional Greek watermelon pie.

## Opinion/Commentary Articles, Reports & 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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National Alliance Statement on the NAACP's Education Report

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - July 26, 2017*

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools President and CEO Nina Rees has released the following statement in response to the NAACP's education report:

"Charter school advocates are believers in the life-changing power of public education, and we believe there's no single way to educate our nation's public school students.

Changes in CSI's Portfolio of Charter Schools

*Colorado Charter School Institute - July 24, 2017*

As families and schools across the state gear up for the back-to-school season, the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI), Colorado's statewide charter school authorizer, has been busy with changes within its own portfolio of schools. Among these changes is the opening of three charter schools, each with a distinct education model.

Monarch Classical School of the Arts Application Approved

*Colorado Charter School Institute - June 21, 2017*

On Tuesday, July 20, 2017, after an extensive review process that included an application, interview, and multiple presentations to the community and board, the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) Board of Directors unanimously approved the charter application for Monarch Classical School of the Arts.

### 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

Colorado League of Charter Schools, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,  
Suite 250, Denver, CO 80222

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