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CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*



**August 18, 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 Manager at the League. Articles and announcements are due by noon on Thursday of each week.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Register Today For The 2017 Charter School Policy & Facility Summit**

This year's event will take place on Monday, September 25 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM in Arvada. This summit will provide charter school leaders with the option of attending sessions related to policy and legal topics or facilities management and financing. It's an opportunity for charter school leaders to obtain important information about ongoing policy and legal updates and issues affecting their individual charter school and the sector at large. [Click here to register.](#)

**Opportunity For Colorado Educators**

This is an exciting opportunity for Colorado educators, schools, and districts to apply for a \$15,000 cash award through [The Succeeds Prize](#). The Succeeds Prize - a collaborative effort between 9NEWS and Colorado Succeeds and powered by mindSpark Learning - honors the transformational impact of Colorado's educators with nearly \$100,000 in cash prizes. It also supports educators in bringing their best ideas forward through the \$15,000 Excellence in Education Innovation Award. Any Colorado public school educator, group of educators, school, or district is eligible. Applications are due by **September 1 and consist of a 2-minute pitch video and short submission form.** [Click here for more information and the application.](#) Please email [info@TheSucceedsPrize.org](mailto:info@TheSucceedsPrize.org) with any questions.

## 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. [Click here to view photo](#). Dividers can be seen by appointment only. Contact Pat at [psweat@newvisioncharterschool.org](mailto:psweat@newvisioncharterschool.org) to schedule appointment.

## News Articles

### [Colorado state test scores inch up, but wide socioeconomic gaps remain](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 17, 2017*

Three years after Colorado introduced new, more demanding standardized tests, student performance statewide is slowly ticking up, according to data released Thursday.

### [Denver charter Compass Academy wins \\$2.5 million to "reimagine high school"](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 16, 2017*

Denver charter middle school devoted to bilingualism and founded with help from City Year, an AmeriCorps program that deploys young adults to mentor and tutor at-risk students, has won a \$2.5 million grant to help design and launch an innovative high school model.

### [12 Colorado schools named finalists for the 'Succeeds Prize' of \\$15,000](#)

*9News - August 16, 2017*

9NEWS, Colorado Succeeds, and mindSpark Learning are excited to announce the finalist and honorable mention schools for The Succeeds Prize 2017 awards for Transformational Impact as well as Excellence in STEM Education.

### [One of these seven teachers will be Colorado's 2018 Teacher of the Year](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - June 15, 2017*

Call it the Academy Awards for Colorado teachers. And the nominations are in. The state education department Tuesday announced seven finalists for the 2018 Colorado Teacher of the Year competition.

### [Back to School 2017 \(Flagstaff Academy's story on page 6\)](#)

*Longmont Times-Call Magazines - August 15, 2017*

Studies indicate that one of the top concerns among American students between 9th and 12th grade is stress, according to the American Psychological Association.

### [Colorado is about to release a torrent of test results. Here are four storylines worth watching.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 15, 2017*

The state education department is scheduled Thursday to publicly release a mammoth amount of data detailing how Colorado students performed on last spring's standardized tests.

### [How Do You Keep Teachers In Rural Ignacio? You Grow Your Own](#)

*Colorado Public Radio - August 15, 2017*

Colorado needs teachers. Thousands of them. Colleges in state are graduating 25 percent fewer licensed teachers than they did six years ago. The crisis is most acute in rural Colorado, where turnover is high.

TMO Background Mode Interview with Colorado Charter School Academic Director Johanna Harth

*The Mac Observer - August 14, 2017*

Johana Harth is the Academic Director of a Colorado charter school. Over the last 12 years, she's gained enormous experience in how to match the curriculum needs of K-8 grade students with modern computer technology.

DeVos Scales Back Federal Role, Lets States Lead

*Real Clear Education - August 11, 2017*

State lawmakers around the country are pushing bold and ambitious education reform plans and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appears content to let them lead the way.

New "education quarterback" organization to invest philanthropic dollars in Denver  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 10, 2017*

A new education-focused philanthropic collaborative is aiming to launch in Denver this fall, and it's hired its first leader: Nate Easley, a Denver Public Schools graduate, former school board president and current head of the Denver Scholarship Foundation.

## **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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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Colorado High School Charter - Osage Campus  
*Colorado High School Charter - August 17, 2017*

Colorado High School Charter, a charter public school in Denver, serving students in grades 9-12, has remodeled and expanded its Osage Campus. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, reception and tours to share the news and renewed school with the community.

National Alliance Statement on Education Next Poll

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - August 15, 2017*

"Today's report from Education Next finds a dip in broad public support for public charter schools. We are grateful for the report's contributions to understanding where our vast country stands on education, and are mindful that the opinions about charter schools that matter most are the opinions of parents and students who have chosen charters schools.

Thomas MaLaren School is a Finalist for The Succeeds Prize \$15,000

*Thomas MaLaren School - August 15, 2017*

Thomas MaLaren School is a finalist for The Succeeds Prize award for Transformational Impact in a High School. The Succeeds Prize, the state's most prestigious awards and recognition event, honors the transformational impact of Colorado's public schools and educators.

Stop conflating school vouchers with charter schools

*The Denver Post - August 11, 2017*

The signs carried by the hundreds gathered to protest the nation's education secretary,

Betsy DeVos, in Denver last month expressed my own sentiments exactly.

### Colorado Is Showing Everyone Up in Funding Its Charter Schools

*Education Post - August 9, 2017*

Can you feel that tension? It's just about everywhere in this country. A mighty tug of war between traditional public schools and public charter schools.

### STEM School and Academy Announces School Name Change

*STEM School Highlands Ranch - August 3, 2017*

STEM School and Academy announces today that it will be named STEM School Highlands Ranch effective immediately. The name change reinforces the pride of this unique K-12 Highlands Ranch campus, now the fastest growing charter school in Douglas County.

### **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**

### **CDE's Annual Finance Seminar and CCSP Grant Budget Workshop**

*Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Office*

**Date:** Friday, September 8

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E 128th Avenue, Thornton

**Cost:** No cost to attend.

**Description:** Held in the fall of each year, this training is designed to give business managers, school leaders and board members an opportunity to learn about changes in policy or innovations in the field of operations and finance management (required for all CCSP grant recipients).

**Registration:** Coming soon. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Close Reading Strategies Cohort**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**\*\*Note: Registration and payment covers three separate events. Please make sure you can attend each one.\*\***

**Dates/Times:**

- Close Reading Strategies 101: Wednesday, September 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Close Reading Strategies 102: Wednesday, October 18 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Close Reading Strategies 103: Wednesday, November 15 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each

additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions.

**Target Audience:** Teachers, Reading and/or Literacy Specialists and Interventionists, Reading Across the Curriculum Teachers, Instructional Coaches

**Description:** In this series of professional development sessions, participants will learn a variety of ways to teach Common Core State standards through close reading rituals and various systematic strategies. These strategies can be used across the content areas and with various curriculum components. Teachers will be able to experience the close reading rituals with a variety of text, standards, models, and time to adjust existing lesson plans to embed and implement the close reading strategies learned. We will also learn how to make a close reading strategy a ritual, embed interventions, and receive quality feedback through reciprocal peer feedback.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 8.

### **CDE Administrator Mentoring Cohort**

*Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Office*

**Date:** Wednesday, September 13

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Rocky Mountain Academy, 2959 Royale Elk Way, Evergreen

**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.

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

### **8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, September 14

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$75 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$100 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee

**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 and make sure 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.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, September 11.  
Event is contingent on 8 attendees.

### **PowerSchool: Preparing for October Count**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, September 15

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$125 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

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

**Meals:** Lunch will not be provided

**Description:** The Student October Report does not have to be intimidating! During this workshop, attendees will break the report down into understandable segments and define the tasks and data associated with each piece. This is a hands-on workshop with time allotted for participants to work on their data.

**Audience:** Registrar, Secretary, PS System Admin, Enrollment/Admissions Staff, and Designated State Reporters

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, September 12.  
Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

### **Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes Cohort**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**\*\*Note: Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one.\*\***

#### **Dates/Times/Locations:**

Wednesday, September 20 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

Date TBD (after September 20) | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

Wednesday, November 29 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver

**Cost:** \$500 per person for both PD sessions and On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching

**Target Audience:** Teachers in years 1-3 of teaching, Interventionists who teach larger groups of students, and anyone who is looking to improve their instructional practices in the classroom

**Description:** In this series of professional development sessions (one includes an on-site observation and instructional coaching segment), participants will engage in a variety of effective instructional strategies to practice and then implement in the classroom. Research states that instructional strategies need to be practiced over 20 times in order to become an automatic part of instructional practice. This workshop provides opportunities for practice, feedback and mentorship, planning and development of teaching routines, on-going support, and a risk-taking learning environment that supports teachers with a growth mindset.

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

### **Charter School Policy & Facility Summit**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, September 25

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada

**Cost:** League Members: \$90 per person | Non-Members: \$130 per person | New School Developers\*: \$50 per person.

**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Description:** The 2017 Charter School Policy and Facility Summit will provide charter school leaders with the option of attending sessions related to policy and legal topics or facilities management and financing. This is an opportunity for charter school leaders to:

- Obtain important information about ongoing policy, legal updates and issues affecting their individual charter school and the sector at large
- Hear from legislators and State Board of Education members on issues these decision makers believe will impact the upcoming legislative session
- Share with League staff issues impacting their school and education community

- Gain valuable information about all stages of the facilities and financing process, from small projects to large construction and how to prepare your leadership for best practice decision making regarding facilities projects
- Learn about local and national stakeholders and experts in the areas of charter school policy, legal and facilities issues will be present to share their expertise and knowledge
- Determine outcomes from the Colorado Charter School Facilities Initiative Survey, and how this data will impact policy and technical assistance from the League and others in the sector

**Agenda:** Coming soon.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 15.

### **Formative and Summative Assessment Cohort**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**\*\*Note: Registration and payment covers three separate events. Please make sure you can attend each one.\*\***

#### **Dates/Times:**

Wednesday, September 27 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, November 8 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, December 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions

**Note:** Lunch will be provided at each session.

**Target Audience:** Teachers, Specialists, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists, Administration

**Description:** In this series of professional development sessions, participants will build background knowledge creating and using effective formative and summative assessment practices in their classroom. Attendees will be asked to bring assessment data, sample assessments, school-based lesson plans, and student work samples. In each of the sessions, participants will:

- Build background knowledge on various types of assessments
- Plan and implement assessment practices to support quality instruction
- Create structures for systematic checks for understanding
- Create quality criteria to discover what you want to learn from the assessment

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 22.

### **2017 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium**

*Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center*

**Date:** Thursday, September 28

**Time:** 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**Location:** Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton

**Description:** The School Safety Resource Center team will meet on September 28 to present a day of training on child sexual abuse prevention. This annual symposium assists school professionals, communities and law enforcement in identifying, preventing, responding to and reporting child sexual abuse. Expert presenters will train on trauma-informed practices, current research and trends, and pertinent legislation.

Be sure to attend this important and supportive event that is open to the public! Watch for registration information on future E-Updates.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). Deadline: Friday, September 1.

### **Instructional Coaching Practices**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, September 29

**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

### **References:**

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, *Leverage Leadership: A Practical Guide to Building Exceptional Schools*, 2012.

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, *Get Better Faster: A 90 Day Plan for Coaching New Teachers*, 2016.

Doug Lemov, *Practice Perfect: 42 Rules for Getting Better and Getting Better*, 2012.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 27.

### **Deconstructing Bias: Creating Equity in Schools - Annual Educators Conference**

*Hosted by the Colorado Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (CO-NAME)*

**Date:** Friday, September 29

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E 128th Avenue, Thornton

**Cost:** \$100 per person.

**Description:** Learn about the national and local efforts to deconstruct bias for staff, students and families as a community.

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

**Let us know if your school is in the news! Please send any articles, comments, or questions to [Kerri Barclay](#).**

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