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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



August 25, 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.](#)

**University Furniture Liquidation Sale**

Colorado Heights University in Denver is closing and they are liquidating many of the physical assets within the walls of the University. There are many items including student and teacher desks, library collections and furniture, athletic equipment, and much more. [Click here to view items.](#) Please contact Bekka Saks at bgsaks@gmail.com or 720-480-4196 for more information.

**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.

## News Articles

[Colorado Military Academy, state's first K-8 military-style school, to hold grand opening](#)  
*Fox21 News - August 23, 2017*

Colorado Military Academy, the state's first K-8 military-style school, will hold a grand opening Thursday, August 24.

[Most Colorado school districts have updated their anti-bullying policies for LGBT students. Here's why some have not.](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 23, 2017*

While many Colorado school districts have adopted explicit policies against bullying of gay and transgender students, some say singling out populations is not necessary to create a safe environment for marginalized students.

[First girls, now boys: A look inside Denver's newest single-gender, athletic-focused charter school](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 22, 2017*

One of the first things the new sixth-graders at Denver's new all-boys public school learned last week was the school cheer.

[Pagosa Peak Open School Prepares to Open Its Doors, Part One](#)

*PagosaDailyPost.com - August 22, 2017*

On Saturday morning, August 19, two Pagosa business owners were working together, spreading well-aged wood mulch across a new 4,800-square-foot playing field behind the Parelli Headquarters in Aspen Village.

[Schools throughout the country are grappling with teacher shortage, data show](#)

*CNN - August 21, 2017*

Lynn Sorrells started teaching 26 years ago because she loved seeing the light-bulb moment when a kid grasped a new concept.

[College alternatives must now be discussed as part of post-high school counseling](#)

*7 News - August 20, 2017*

Starting this fall, a new law requires Colorado schools to discuss alternatives to college as part of a student's academic and career planning.

[In eclipse, schools see a teaching moment](#)

*The Denver Post - August 20, 2017*

A rare solar eclipse that will blacken the skies over Colorado on Monday is making many educators giddy over all the learning that can be gleaned by just walking outside, applying nerdy-looking eyewear and looking up.

[Colorado Springs-area charter schools grow up and out](#)

*The Colorado Springs Gazette - August 19, 2017*

A new charter school is opening this fall, and several others in the Pikes Peak region are completing expansions or renovations.

No. 1: This Denver turnaround school had the highest math growth in Colorado  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 18, 2017*

Denver's University Prep faced a gargantuan task last year: Turn around a school where the previous year just 7 percent of third- through fifth-graders were on grade level in math and 6 percent were on grade level in English.

Colorado K-12 students show some improvement on state math, English tests, but achievement gaps persist

*The Denver Post - August 17, 2017*

Test results of Colorado's public school students released Thursday show improvements in math and English language arts as well as in the number of students opting to take the tests.

SAT scores show mixed results on whether Colorado juniors are on track for college  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 17, 2017*

About six in 10 Colorado high school juniors are on track to be ready for college-level English classes, while only four in 10 are for math courses, according to state data released Thursday.

Schoolpool Helps Connect Colorado Parents 'Simplify Life'  
*CBS Denver 4 - August 17, 2017*

It's back to school time for hundreds of thousands of Colorado families, and a program called Schoolpool is helping connect parents in the state. It makes it easier on them, while at the same time makes the roads around schools safer.

## **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 CREDO School Closure Report
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - August 24, 2017

National Alliance President and CEO Nina Rees today released the following statement in response to Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) report on school closures across public district and public charter schools:

Loveland Classical Schools' Academy Grand Opening
Loveland Classical Schools - August 22, 2017

To support its continued growth in student enrollment, Loveland Classical Schools (LCS) is happy to announce the Grand Opening of its new Academy Campus for its middle and high school programs.

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.](#)

Twice-Exceptional Foundations, Level 1, Fall 2017 Course Options

Hosted by CDE Exceptional Student Services Office

Dates: Full online course: September 11 - October 29 | Hybrid: October 2 - October 29 with one day face-to-face training on November 2

Cost: Free

Location: Online; Face-to-face training on November 2 at UNC Lowry, 1059 Alton Way, Denver

Audience: Any educator or mental health professional with an interest in learning more about gifted students with disabilities

Description: These course offerings are designed to provide you with:

- The ability to articulate and understand the complex needs of twice-exceptional students, both academic and social-emotional
- An awareness of how the learning environment and teaching style impact the success of twice-exceptional students
- A review of the basics of MTSS for use in twice-exceptional identification and programming
- The ability to define and utilize strength-based programming within a MTSS framework
- The skills necessary to identify evidence-based strategies for twice-exceptional students
- Suggestions for working with the parents of twice-exceptional learners
- The opportunity to collaborate with others to develop an educational plan that is responsive to the student's profile

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

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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