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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
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**September 1, 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.](#)

**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. Volunteers are needed Tuesdays and Fridays (volunteers choose one day) from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM. Program begins on September 12 and volunteers will be working with 3rd grade students. 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](mailto:Julie@partnersinliteracy.org).

**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.

### **Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source**

Colorado schools, non-profit organizations, and state agencies have come together to provide a unique opportunity for Colorado schools. Take the first step in transforming the health of your school community by participating in the Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source inventory to assess your school's health efforts. It is free and easy to participate and in addition, schools will receive custom reports of their data plus \$150 for participating. Complete the survey by October 31 for a chance to win an additional \$2,000. [Click here for an overview](#) and [click here to learn more about this opportunity](#).

### **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**

### Testing Ground

*5280 - September 2017*

The early morning ritual of teachers sorting folders, stapling worksheets, and copying coloring pages is something parents rarely see. As soon as drop-off starts, schools are filled with a mighty cacophony of tiny voices.

### New charter school customizes classes for K-5 students

*The Durango Herald - August 30, 2017*

With this week's grand opening of The Juniper School, children now have more freedom and say-so in their education.

### Test scores show growth, room for improvement

*Castle Rock News-Press - August 28, 2017*

Standardized test-score results released in August show that the Douglas County School District outperformed the state in all but one test category, but the district saw drops in several categories since last year.

### SkyView Academy Hosts School Tours - Limited Openings in High School and Preschool

*Your Hub - August 28, 2017*

While it doesn't seem possible that the kids are back in school as the summer continues to sizzle, SkyView Academy (SVA) is off to a great start for the 2017-2018 school year.

### Alta Vista, History and Memories Combine

*The Prowers Journal - August 28, 2017*

The Alta Vista Charter School observed its 100th anniversary with a celebration geared to trigger some memories for a lot of the older students and provide some younger ones with new recollections for years to come.

Upward trend: More of Denver's youngest students are reading at grade-level

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 28, 2017*

Denver Public Schools is celebrating a double-digit jump from the beginning to the end of last school year in the percentage of its youngest students who are reading on grade level.

Compass has new director, CCS principal

*Post Independent | Citizen Telegram - August 28, 2017*

Compass, the Woody Creek-based nonprofit organization that operates the Carbondale and Aspen community charter schools, has a new executive director, Michael Hayes.

Here's a closer look at how students performed on Colorado's 2017 tests - in nine graphics

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 25, 2017*

When Colorado officials released a trove of test results last week, it showed the continuation of a sobering trend line: historically underserved students are lagging behind other students, and the gaps are not closing.

Colorado tells feds it needs more time to rethink opt-out policy

*Chalkbeat Colorado - August 24, 2017*

Colorado is asking for more time to figure out how to meet federal requirements for giving students standardized tests while respecting the rights of parents who don't want their children to take them.

## **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 Opens Doors On New American Academy - Lincoln Meadows Campus

*American Academy - August 31, 2017*

American Academy will be hosting an official Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new American Academy - Lincoln Meadows campus on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. The ceremony celebrates the opening of the school's third campus.

Top 12 school startup lessons, part 1

*Thomas B. Fordham Institute - August 29, 2017*

Over the last twenty-six years, a growing number of entrepreneurial educators have begun reinventing public education by starting thousands of public charter schools.

Himmelman Completes Renovation & Addition of Addenbrooke Classical Academy in Lakewood

*Himmelman Construction, Inc - August 24, 2017*

Himmelman Construction, Inc. (Himmelman), a privately held commercial General Contractor headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado, announced today the completion of the renovation and addition of Addenbrooke Classical Academy (Addenbrooke), a tuition-free, public K-12 charter school located at 3940 South Teller Street in Lakewood.

## 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.

### **SAT/PSAT: School-Wide Overview**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, September 14

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$50 for one person and \$25 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$75 for one person and \$25 per additional attendee

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

**Audience:** Educators who will be involved in the communication of test scores from April 2017 as well as the planning for next spring's administration.

School assessment coordinators, counselors, principals and lead teachers are encouraged to attend this workshop.

**Description:** Following the release of CO PSAT™ 10 and CO SAT™ school day scores this past June, the College Board is pleased to host a back-to-school regional workshop for Colorado public charter school educators. This workshop will provide an overview of the SAT Suite for Colorado students with the addition of the PSAT™ 9 to be administered this spring 2018. They will also show educators and their students how to access and understand their test results from last year. The workshops will demonstrate the interactive features and two essential reports built into the educator reporting portal. The educator portal offers an array of powerful tools for teachers to assess their students' progress and plan instruction that delivers what they need.

### **Workshop topics include:**

- Managing and creating campus/district access to reporting tools and an overview of available reports
- Exploring a student's College Board account
- Understanding College Board resources including BigFuture™
- Reviewing tips and guidelines for engaging more students with creating College Board student accounts to access and connect student scores to Khan Academy®
- Digging into the exciting updates to Khan Academy® coaching resources!

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, September 12.

### **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.](#)

**Implementing Effective Data Teams**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 4

**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, September 29.

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

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