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



## September 16, 2016

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

### Back Off My Charter School \$100,000 Video Contest

In mid-August John Oliver, the host of HBO's Last Week Tonight, leveled a very unfair, unfortunate, unbalanced, unwarranted and generally unhinged tirade against charter public schools. The Center for Education Reform has launched the "Hey John Oliver! Back Off My Charter School!" Video Contest. You now have the chance to help set the record straight and let people know how much charter schools are helping their children, families, teachers and communities. AND you have the chance to win \$100,000 for your school. [Click here to learn more and to participate.](#)

### Free Lockers

FCI Constructors is helping give away [free lockers](#) (from DIA) to any interested charter school. The lockers are double tiered, 84" tall including the sloped top, foot pegs, and both tiers. The lockers without sloped tops are about 78" tall. They are 18" deep and 12" wide with the exception of about (17) which are 16" deep and 12" wide. The total # of lockers is as follows: Sloped top - 95, 53 in back room, 42 in front room and Non-Sloped top - 36 (18 of these are the new ones), 33 in back room, 3 in front room. [Click here to view.](#) Please contact Sarah Armstrong at [sarmstrong@fciol.com](mailto:sarmstrong@fciol.com) or 970-535-4725 to learn more.

### **Free Student Desks**

High Point Academy in Aurora has 35 student desks to give to another charter school. The desks are five years old and in good condition. For more information, contact Lynn Muehlhausen at [lmuehlhausen@highpointacademy.net](mailto:lmuehlhausen@highpointacademy.net).

### **Resources for Sale**

North Star Academy in Parker has a number of student textbooks and teacher manuals for sale. Some of them include: Holt Science and Technology Integrated Science resources (middle school), Shurley English books for grades 6-8, and a Colorado history curriculum. The curriculum, *A Rendezvous with Colorado History*, includes 84 student books and 3 teacher guides. [Click here to view](#). Product Details include: Hardcover: 200 pages, Publisher: Sterling Ties Publications (1999), Language: English, ISBN-10: 0964242028 and ISBN-13: 978-0964242029. Please contact Mary Edwards at [medwards@nstaracademy.org](mailto:medwards@nstaracademy.org) if interested.

## **News Articles**

### [\\$9.5 million in grants back apprenticeship program for Colorado high school students](#)

*The Denver Post* - September 15, 2016

A new statewide initiative could place 20,000 high-school students in apprenticeships by 2027 - and not just in the job fields traditionally associated with the earn-while-you-learn approach.

### [For Denver schools facing closure, a high bar to prove they deserve another chance](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado* - September 15, 2016

Denver Public Schools is fine-tuning a new policy to identify chronically struggling schools for possible closure, including a last-gasp in-depth quality review that could prove difficult to pass.

### [RE1J joins anti TABOR lawsuit as plaintiff](#)

*Crested Butte News* - September 14, 2016

The RE1J school board has voted to enter the Kerr et al. v. Hickenlooper lawsuit as a plaintiff, cementing its position against the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), which it argues has harmed Colorado public schools by stifling K-12 funding.

### [Now is the time to discuss scrapping Colorado's two-year old testing system, state board says](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado* - September 14, 2016

Less than two weeks after Colorado learned how districts and schools fared in year two of new standardized tests, a majority of State Board of Education members signaled Wednesday that they want to explore junking the system and starting all over again.

### [Colorado board lifts diet soda ban in high schools](#)

*The Denver Post* - September 14, 2016

A majority of Colorado Board of Education members Wednesday rebuffed the concerns of some parents and health advocates by voting to nix a seven-year ban on diet sodas in state high schools.

### [Boulder Valley school board hears update on student support, social and emotional learning](#)

*Daily Camera* - September 13, 2016

The Boulder Valley school board heard an update Tuesday on a new district plan to better support students that will focus on literacy and social and emotional learning.

### STEM Curriculum Doesn't Add Up For Most Colorado Classrooms

*CPR - September 13, 2016*

Educators and business leaders have long promoted STEM curriculum, which focuses on science, technology, engineering and math, as key to preparing students for the best jobs in the economy.

### New teacher training favored by charters comes to Denver as critics sound off

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 13, 2016*

The aspiring Denver teacher stood in front a cluster of four gray school desks where three of his peers were seated in blue plastic chairs, pretending to be students.

### How a small Aurora high school found itself in select company

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 12, 2016*

An Aurora high school that puts a premium on teacher training has been recognized in an annual report that makes a point of looking beyond test scores to evaluate public schools.

### The Grand opening set for new online charter school

*The Durango Herald - September 12, 2016*

A statewide online charter school will hold a grand opening celebration Tuesday in Durango - its newest location - and a "Getting Started" event for newly enrolled students and their families.

### One Colorado school district's closely watched experiment in financing full-day preschool

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 12, 2016*

The sunny preschool classroom at Fairview Elementary looks and sounds pretty typical. In one corner, children play dress-up with hats, goggles and necklaces. Across the room, three children chatter as they count colorful plastic bears.

### A new way to honor high schools, without looking at test scores

*Washington Post - September 12, 2016*

Test scores. Graduation rates. These are the central data points for most high school rankings. But now there is something new - and very different.

### School receives \$80,000 grant

*Pueblo Chieftain - September 11, 2016*

The Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences has received an \$80,000 grant from the Daniels Fund, designated to support the school's endeavor to open a second charter school in Pueblo.

### Boulder County questioning school resource officer funding

*Boulder Daily Camera - September 10, 2016*

Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle recalls a high school student tipping off a school resource officer about a loaded gun in a locker.

### STEM Superstars: 'Teacher Flight' aims to launch aviation careers

*9News - September 9, 2016*

The Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum Teacher Flight Program has a lofty goal: to provide a flight experience for a teacher from every school in Colorado by the year 2020.

## 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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[Giving Colorado's youth the skills and education to succeed](#)

*The Denver Post - September 14, 2016*

Colorado is a state where business, government and nonprofit communities understand the value of working together to create opportunity for all, regardless of where they live or who they are.

[Local schools challenge college-only model for success](#)

*The Gazette - September 13, 2016*

Prediction: Widefield and Peyton school districts will start a national educational trend. Educators will visit this region to learn from these districts and emulate their new program.

[Skyview Academy Hosts Informational Tours, Student/Parent Night And Shadow Days](#)

*Skyview Academy - September 12, 2016*

If you're interested in learning more about SkyView Academy's (SVA) curriculum, culture and how we work with our students on a daily basis to embody our vision of life-long learning and honorable leadership, we offer a variety of ways to visit our school to learn more.

### Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

Below are some other great education reform news, blog and discussion sites that may be of interest:

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

[Charter School Solutions Blog](#)

[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

### Webinar: What you Need to Know About Accountability, the State Assessment Transition, and the UIP

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Monday, September 19

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Location:** Webinar

**Cost:** Free

**Audience:** School Leaders, Data and Assessment Staff

**Description:** Review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc.), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to

know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, September 16.

### **Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan (Webinar 2 of 5)**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Tuesday, September 20

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Cost:** Free

Location: Online/Webinar

**Description:** The Safe Schools Act for Colorado can be read in C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 The Act requires all schools, including charter public schools, to adopt and implement a safe school plan. This School Safety Plan webinar series focuses on Subsection (4) of the Act and will lead each participating charter public school through a step-by-step process to build and complete their school-specific plan by June 30, 2017. This webinar series (5 webinars) will help schools establish a school response framework that shall consist of policies described in subsection (4) of the Act. By satisfying the requirements of subsection (4), a school shall be in compliance with the national incident management system, referred to in this subsection (4) as "NIMS", developed by the federal emergency management agency.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** September 19.

Please register using a valid email address and the webinar link will be sent to you before September 20.

### **Webinar: What you Need to Know About Accountability, the State Assessment Transition, and the UIP**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Tuesday, September 20

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Webinar

**Cost:** Free

**Audience:** School Leaders, Data and Assessment Staff

**Description:** Review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc.), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, September 16.

### **Lunch & Learn: Improve Your Impact: Youth Development & Career Exploration Technology**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Couragion*

**Date:** Thursday, September 22

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**Cost:** League Members: Free; Non-Members: \$25

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

**Description:** Please join Couragion and the Colorado League of Charter Schools for a free interactive session designed for charter school leaders. The discussion will include a demonstration of Couragion's career readiness and youth development apps for students and educators. The seminar will provide an overview of:

- How students explore careers and create personalized learning plans and accomplishment portfolios
- How teachers access professional development, lesson plans, and real-time data

to improve teaching and learning

- How administrators leverage insights about student's preferences, values, and interests to shape culture and drive student outcomes

*Couragion is supported by the National Science Foundation and AT&T Aspire.*

**Learn More:** [Check out an administrator's perspective on Couragion in this YouTube video.](#)

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

### **Interpreting Reading Data to Close Gaps and Strengthen Student Achievement**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Tuesday, September 27

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:30 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:** What evidence do you use to identify reading ability gaps and struggling readers? Build expertise in interpreting reading assessment data in order to accurately identify reading needs. Learn to select targeted instructional strategies appropriate for struggling readers and their specific needs.

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

Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 registrants.

### **State Assessment Interpretation & Action**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, September 28

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:30 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:** Do you understand your state assessment results? Can you make meaning of the scale scores? Do you know how to translate your state data into action? This session is a deep dive into your state assessment data. Learn more about the assessment itself and look at your data to identify strengths and needs. You will leave this session feeling more confident in using and discussing your state data.

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

Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 registrants.

### **Webinar: Using NWEA MAP Data to Differentiate Instruction**

*Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, September 29

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** Meet Otus, NWEA's Authorized Data Partner. Otus is a Student Performance Platform, a system that combines a robust learning management system, a collection of classroom management tools, and a powerful data warehouse. With Otus, teachers have the ability to provide students with a more personalized learning experience by using NWEA data to inform their instruction.

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

### **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Conference**

*Hosted by Colorado School Safety Resource Center*

**Date:** Thursday, September 29

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

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

**Cost:** \$50 per person.

**Audience:** Administrators, teachers, school safety teams, school/community mental health, law enforcement responsible for school safety.

Plenaries:

- Adult Sexual Misconduct: Avoidance, Liability and Implications
- Investigations Group/Employment Matters - Title IX Compliance in K-12 schools
- Sexting, Prosecutorial Discretion and Policy Regarding Teen Misconduct

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

### **Classroom Strategies For Teaching English-Language Learners & Overview for English Language Development Planning**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, October 3

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee

**Description:** With the growing population of English Language Learners within our schools, it is essential that schools be prepared to meet the needs of ELL students. In order to do this, teachers and interventionists will need to understand the basic elements of WIDA standards, the features of an English Language Development Plan (ELDP), and the strategies to support learning. This training will provide an overview for creating an English Language Development Plan as well as how to utilize the WIDA standards and build a foundation for classroom strategies that can be incorporated into teaching English Language learners. The training will focus on strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 30.

### **Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning**

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, October 7

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

**Cost:** League Member: \$175, additional attendees \$100; Non-Member: \$225, additional attendees \$100

**Description:** Is the honeymoon period over? Are students displaying challenging behaviors that impact their learning and the learning of others? Not sure where to go next? This workshop is designed to enable school administrators, special education teachers, and other stakeholders to craft effective Tier II and Tier III behavior intervention plans for struggling students. Additionally, the workshop will provide training on Functional Behavioral Assessments, an essential component of the IEP process when a behavioral or developmental disorder is suspected. School Personnel will take away several resources for best practices in behavior interventions: data collection tools, behavior change monitoring tools, strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS, social emotional learning intervention programs, and sample MTSS structures for behavior/social emotional learning.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 5.

Event contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

### **2016 Colorado Safe Schools Summit**

*Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU Boulder and Safe2Tell of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General*

**Dates:** Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13

**Location:** The Conference Center at Adams 12 Five Star Schools, 1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton

**Cost:** Early Bird Rate: \$80 per person for both days (\$50 per person per day if registering for individual days). Rates increase September 1.

**Meals:** Continental breakfast and lunch with a plenary will be part of each day's events.

Plenary speakers scheduled to present:

- Empowering Teens to Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral, Presented by: Dr. Sameer Hinduja
- Unleashing the Power of Prevention to Promote School Safety and Positive Youth, Presented by: Brian Bumbarger, Ph.D.
- Mitigating Risk and Improving Protection: A Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention in Colorado Schools, Presented by: Jarrod Hindman
- The Impact of Marijuana Legalization, Presented by: Michael Song  
Safe2Tell Panel, Presented by: Susan Payne, Founding Executive Director, Suzi Karrer
- Essential Elements of Effective Behavioral Threat Management Programs, Presented by: Gene Deisinger, Ph.D.

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

### **Webinar: Using NWEA MAP Data to Differentiate Instruction**

*Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, October 13

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** Meet Otus, NWEA's Authorized Data Partner. Otus is a Student Performance Platform, a system that combines a robust learning management system, a collection of classroom management tools, and a powerful data warehouse. With Otus, teachers have the ability to provide students with a more personalized learning experience by using NWEA data to inform their instruction.

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

### **Lunch & Learn: DIBELS Next and Core Knowledge Language Arts: Getting Results**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Amplify*

**Date:** Thursday, October 20

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**Cost:** League Members: Free; Non-Members: \$25 per person

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

**Description:** You can move the needle! Thousands of Colorado educators are using curriculum and assessment tools each day to change outcomes for kids. Join us to find out how. Learn about the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project, a FREE resource to help your school in implementing the READ Act. Amplify also publishes a full ELA curriculum called Core Knowledge Language Arts (PreK-5). Get those details

for your school needs.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, October 18.

### **5th Annual NWEA MAP Users Conference**

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and NWEA*

**Date:** Friday, October 21

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Cherry Creek School District Student Achievement Resource Center, 14188 E Briarwood Avenue, Centennial

**Cost:** \$175 early bird; \$225 regular rate. Early bird ends September 26.

**Group Discount:** Groups of three or more, enter promo code 2016NWEAGROUP for \$20 off per person.

**Description:** Join NWEA MAP users from more than 50 schools and districts across Colorado for this one-of-a-kind event.

Improve your use and understanding of this valuable assessment while networking and learning from users and experts in the field.

The conference will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics designed for advanced, intermediate and beginner users.

Previous attendees found presentations to be highly valuable, and 100% of those surveyed said they would return.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, October 17.

### **Board Fundamentals**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and CDE Schools of Choice Unit*

**Date:** Friday, October 28

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** TBD

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Description:** This training is offered twice a year in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education Schools of Choice office to support board members by providing a sound introduction to board practice and responsibilities, a refresher to continuing board members in board leadership roles, and an introduction to general charter school governing board practices and responsibilities for charter school leaders.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 26.

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

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