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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
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**September 22, 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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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Save The Date - 2018 Colorado Charter Schools Conference**

Registration Coming Soon.



### **Free Middle School Desks**

Highline Academy in Denver has 32 desks (in great condition) for middle school students. These desks are not height adjustable, but do have a slim profile. The top of each desk is a wood laminate and the legs are chrome. [Click here to view photo](#). Please contact Heather Knight at [hknight@highlineacademy.org](mailto:hknight@highlineacademy.org), if interested.

### **Free Elementary School Chairs**

The International School of Denver has approximately 250 chairs for elementary school students for anyone willing to pick them up. The school is located in the vicinity of 6th and Quebec in the Lowry neighborhood of Denver. Please contact John Gibbons at 720-448-3983 if interested.

### **Fall Book Sale**

The Jefferson County Library Foundation is hosting their annual fall book sale on October 27 - 29. On Saturday, October 28 all books are half price for teachers and educators with ID. The children's books are priced at \$1 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks, so on half-price day they are quite the deal! The book sale will take place at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave. Frontage Road, Golden. [Click here to learn more](#). Contact Kirstin Kraig at [Kirstin.Kraig@jeffcolibrary.org](mailto:Kirstin.Kraig@jeffcolibrary.org) with questions.

### **Family And School Partnership In Education Month**

For the sixth consecutive year, Governor John Hickenlooper has proclaimed October Family and School Partnership in Education Month. The Colorado Department of Education and the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education will host a kickoff event to celebrate the month. Senator Evie Hudak will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event and Colorado State Representative Janet Buckner will be the keynote. The event is Thursday, October 5 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the Tivoli (Zenith Room) located at 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver. A brief program will be followed by light refreshments, mingling, and resource sharing.

### **The Green Schools Summit**

Don't miss this year's Green Schools Summit on November 2 and November 3! The Green Schools Summit is Colorado's only conference dedicated to convening green building industry professionals, school decision makers, educators and parents to further advance healthy, safe and sustainable schools statewide. The annual education and networking event, hosted by USGBC Colorado and organized in partnership with volunteers from the Green Schools Initiative, provides a unique opportunity to discuss how we can create better learning environments for students. This year's Summit theme is "Making Green Schools Add Up" and programming will focus on resource

efficiency in schools. Early bird pricing ends September 22. [Click here to register.](#)

## News Articles

### ['Nothing Short of Phenomenal' University Prep Turnaround Sees Colorado's Highest Test Bump](#)

*The 74 - September 20, 2017*

When this year's state test scores were announced in Colorado in August, families and teachers at University Prep-Steele Street had more than a little celebrating to do.

### [KIPP NYC College Prep: Tracking Students Through College Like No One Else in America](#)

*The Alumni - September 20, 2017*

Nobody tracks their alumni into and through college like KIPP.

### [Berrick Abramson to lead education work at Colorado think tank, Keystone](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 19, 2017*

Berrick Abramson, a national expert on school accountability and the teacher workforce, is joining the Colorado-based Keystone Policy Center to lead its education work, the organization announced Tuesday.

### [Denver Public Schools making changes to choice process meant to benefit low-income parents](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 19, 2017*

Denver Public Schools is making changes to its nationally recognized school choice system, in part to make it easier for low-income parents to navigate and to assuage fears of undocumented families wary of providing personal information given the national political climate.

### [Common Core used widely, despite continuing debate](#)

*The Aurora Sentinel via the AP - September 19, 2017*

Most of the states that first endorsed the Common Core academic standards are still using them in some form, despite continued debate over whether they are improving student performance in reading and math.

### [Early childhood teachers in Colorado face low pay, high turnover](#)

*The Denver Post - September 18, 2017*

Colorado is plagued by teacher shortages in early childhood education as well as high turnover rates, leaving many children paying the price, according to a new University of Denver report.

### [Hurricanes ravaged their hometowns. Mass deportation rumors have them scared. So Colorado colleges are lending a hand.](#)

*The Denver Post - September 18, 2017*

After Hurricanes Harvey and Irma left their hometowns devastated, and rumors of mass deportations led them to question their futures, hundreds of Colorado college students are finding comfort and financial help on campus.

### [When a parent pushed for a lesson on Mayan history, this Colorado teacher invited her in to help](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 18, 2017*

How do teachers captivate their students? Here, in a feature we call How I Teach, we ask great educators how they approach their jobs. You can see other pieces in this series [here](#).

10 Years, 100% College Acceptance: Inside a Most Remarkable Decade at the Denver School of Science & Technology

*The 74 - September 17, 2017*

One by one, the seniors jogged up to the microphones at the front of the Denver Coliseum, introducing themselves and sharing which college they'll be attending in the fall, to the sustained, raucous applause of their 4,000 classmates, teachers, and parents.

'Last Shot' New America Colorado Charter Juggles Refugees, Immigration Fears, Alternative Education Challenges

*The 74 - September 17, 2017*

Nearly every student in Leah Renzi's third-period math class had his or her phone out that Monday morning in May - intentionally.

Denver's ambitious home visit program works to build bridges between parents and teachers

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 15, 2017*

Six-year-old Naylin Lopez hopped up on the couch in her family's living room. It was an hour after school and her first-grade teacher was visiting.

The numbers behind Denver's portfolio of schools: More than half are charter and innovation schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 14, 2017*

Nationally known for its embrace of school autonomy, Denver Public Schools now has more charter and innovation schools than traditional district-run schools.

Montessori charter school grows to 188 students

*Steamboat Today - September 14, 2017*

Wednesdays are enrichment days at Mountain Village Montessori Charter School in Steamboat Springs, and on Sept. 13, the classrooms and hallways were filled with the joyous noise of youngsters learning to work as a team to lift a glass jar with multiple strands of string, forming a band and repeating Spanish phrases.

How should Colorado respond to federal concerns about its testing opt-out policy? State board members don't agree.

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 13, 2017*

Divisions emerged Wednesday on the State Board of Education over how to respond to the federal government's concerns about the state's federally required education plan.

## **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 CRPE Declining Enrollment in Traditional Public Schools Paper

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - September 20, 2017*

Earlier this year, the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) held a convening

of public education leaders from around the country, including the National Alliance's Vice President of Research Susan Pendergrass to tackle the topic of declining enrollment in traditional public schools and the role of public charter schools.

### National Alliance Statement on Teacher Absenteeism in Charter and Traditional Public Schools

*National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - September 20, 2017*

Today, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute released a new study, *Teacher Absenteeism in Charter and Traditional Public Schools*, which finds that teachers in traditional public schools are almost three times as likely to be chronically absent as teachers in charter schools.

### **Education Blogs, Forums and Resources**

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

[A+ Colorado - Sharpening Public Education](#)

[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**

### **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 | **(On-site registration day of the event for an additional fee - includes League Members: \$110 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:** [Click here to view agenda.](#)

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Charter Communicators Network Meeting**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

*Sponsored by Edlio*

**Date:** Thursday, October 5

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$25 per person; Non-members: \$75 per person

**Location:** Prospect Ridge Academy, 2555 Preble Creek Parkway, Broomfield

**Meals:** Includes coffee and lunch

**Description:** Charter Communicators Network Meetings take place three times per year. This is a chance for charter school communications staff, or any staff interested in building school communications and marketing efforts, to come together. During these meetings, attendees will network and share best practices, as well as hear from experts in the field.

**Agenda:** [Click here for tentative agenda.](#)

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, October 3.

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

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, October 6

**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: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

**Description:** 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 including:

- Data collection tools
- Behavior change monitoring tools
- Strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS
- Social emotional learning intervention programs
- Sample MTSS structures for behavior/social emotional learning

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 4.

### **Social and Emotional Learning: A Practical Guide to School-Wide Implementation**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Tuesday, October 10

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$75 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$125 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee

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

**Meals:** A light breakfast and snacks will be offered; lunch will not be provided.

**Audience:** Teachers, Administrators, MTSS support staff, counselors, support staff

**Description:** Effective Socio-Emotional Learning, as described by CASEL, includes: Explicit SEL Skills Instruction, Teacher Instructional Practices, Integration with Academic Curriculum Areas, and Organization, Climate and Cultural Strategies. Moving beyond the content of any one curriculum, this workshop explores nine critical factors for high-quality, school-wide SEL. Participants will develop a clear understanding of the "what, why, and how" of SEL and will work together in small groups to apply the 9 critical factors to their unique school setting. An exploration on the use of active engagement strategies and assessing the strengths and growth points of your setting in all aspects of SEL integration will occur.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, October 9.

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

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 11

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

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

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

**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 instructional strategies

that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners; something you will also be able to experience as a participant.

**Participants will learn:**

- The key elements of an effective English Language Development Plan;
- The basics of WIDA standards and how to incorporate them into your daily learning objectives;
- Instructional research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your classroom.

**Audience:** ELA teachers, ELD teachers, ELD Coordinators, Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Interventionists

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, October 6. Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

**Independent Charter School Symposium in New York**

*Hosted by The Coalition of Community Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Thursday, October 12 - Friday, October 13

**Location:** Long Island City, New York

**Cost:** \$399 for Early Birds

**Description:** C3S is proud to host the first-ever Independent Charter School Symposium (ICSS) in NYC's hottest new spot- Long Island City. This exciting event will convene school leaders, social visionaries and policy-makers from across the country in a groundbreaking, two-day conference to articulate a collective vision for the direction of the charter movement and all of public education.

**Registration:** [Click here for Early Bird Registration.](#)

**Gifted Education 101**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, October 12

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

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

**Location:** Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning, 2510 N. Chestnut St., Colorado Springs

**Meals:** A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Description:** Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning invites you to join us for a Gifted Education 101 course in Colorado Springs. Nikki Myers, founding principal and Academy Director and Teresa Brown, founding teacher and gifted education specialist will guide participants in the following objectives:

- Understanding the definition of giftedness and requirements for each charter and traditional public school in the state of Colorado
- Recognition of the characteristics of giftedness as they present in the classroom and the challenges that teachers face in supporting those needs
- Strategies and techniques for addressing gifted educational needs that can be met within a variety of school models
- Learn about Advanced Learning Plan formats that meet requirements for Colorado

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, October 10. Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

**Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, October 13

**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:** Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processes of reading. Participants will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle that includes:

- Collecting various screeners that assess the different processes of reading.
- Plotting and analyzing screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Triangulating data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Prioritizing instruction through a problem solving process.
- Implementing prioritized instruction and progress monitoring goals/objectives.
- Reviewing progress monitoring and adjusting groupings and instructional plans.
- In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of reading processes and building a stronger skill set in data-driven instruction, participants will learn instructional best practices and evidence-based programming options for specialized instruction in reading and writing.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 11.

### **Colorado Alternative Education Campuses Conference**

*Hosted by the Colorado Coalition for Alternative Education Campuses*

**Date:** Friday, October 13

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

**Location:** New America School, 5806 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood

**Description:** Join AEC schools across the state to improve your learning and understanding for supporting high-risk students. This conference is designed for teachers, principals, counselors and support staff and will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics such as dropout prevention, instructional strategies and resources, addressing social/emotional needs, accountability updates and best practices. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network with each other and learn from consultants and experts in the field.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, October 6.

### **2017 Colorado Safe Schools Summit**

*Hosted by Colorado School Safety Resource Center*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 18 - Thursday, October 19

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

**Cost:** Full two-day registration \$95 plus registration fees | Single day registration cost \$48 plus registration fees.

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

### **Mindfulness & Self-Care for Educators**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 25

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$75 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$125 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee

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

**Meals:** A light breakfast and snacks will be offered, but lunch will not be provided.  
Audience: School leaders, instructional coaches, lead teachers, teachers, health and wellness staff, counselors, and support staff

**Description:** In today's fast-paced and high stakes educational climate, the rate of teacher burnout and turnover is increasing at an alarming rate. Thus, it is crucial that educators learn and practice effective self-care strategies. Self-care is not just something that occurs before and after work. Rather, effective self-care must include proactive and in-the-moment strategies that teachers can use on-the-job to reduce stress and respond to difficult situations. This highly experiential workshop demonstrates a variety of mindfulness techniques and delivers practical, research-backed strategies to help educators including:

- Fostering feelings of calm and ease in any moment
- Strengthening and managing their most valuable resource - attention
- Recognizing the signs and symptoms of toxic stress and burnout
- Increasing their nervous system's capacity for dealing with difficult situations
- Responding effectively to challenging emotions
- Using breath, movement, and attention to reduce stress and increase well-being
- Building a personal 'toolbox' of self-care strategies

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, October 24.

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

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