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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
 CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



September 23, 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**

#### **2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference - Registration Now Open!**

Registration is now open for the 2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference scheduled for February 23 and 24 in Broomfield. The Conference is one of the most comprehensive professional development opportunities for new and veteran charter public school staff, boards, administrators and teachers. Visit [www.cocharterconference.org](http://www.cocharterconference.org) for more information and to register.

#### **Last Chance for Early Bird Rates - 5th Annual NWEA MAP Users Conference**

Early bird rates for the 5th Annual NWEA MAP Users Conference end Monday, September 26. Register today to save \$50 per person. The event takes place Friday, October 21 from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM at the Cherry Creek School District Student Achievement Resource Center, 14188 E Briarwood Avenue, Centennial. [Click here](#) to register and learn more.

#### **Lotus School for Excellence Job Fair**

Hiring season will be here before you know it! Lotus School for Excellence in Aurora is hosting a job fair on April 8, 2017 and would appreciate hearing from you on what is essential in conducting a successful job fair. From training to interviews, what does your dream job fair look like? [Click here](#) to share your feedback.

## **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](#). Deadline: Monday, September 26.

## **News Articles**

[Terence Crutcher was a KIPP parent, and the charter school network urges action](#)  
*Chalkbeat National - September 21, 2016*

A national charter network is urging its schools to take action this week to show support for the family of Terence Crutcher, the black man shot and killed this week by a police officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

[Denver students of color not making as much progress on state tests as white peers](#)  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 21, 2016*

Denver Public Schools students from disadvantaged backgrounds are progressing far slower on state tests than their more privileged peers - and the gulf between the groups is widening.

[Canon City students progress faster than state in English, math](#)  
*Canon City News - September 21, 2016*

Students in the Cañon City School District are progressing more quickly in math and English than students in other parts of the state, according to academic growth data released Tuesday by the Colorado Department of Education.

[Ivanka Trump to tour Fort Collins charter school](#)  
*Fort Collins Coloradoan - September 21, 2016*

Ivanka Trump, the daughter and one of the leading surrogates of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, is scheduled to tour Fort Collins charter school Liberty Common on Thursday.

[Pueblo's D70 seeking more mills to help students keep pace](#)  
*The Pueblo Chieftain - September 21, 2016*

As the lowest-funded school district in the state without voter-approved additional mills, Pueblo County School District 70 finds itself in a precarious situation when it comes to providing students with a 21st century education.

[Three possible explanations for why students with special needs didn't fare as well on PARCC](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 21, 2016*

When state officials this week released new data showing how much students had grown academically year-to-year on state tests, one statistic jumped out.

[Latest Colorado test results provide long-awaited glimpse at key metric - how students are growing academically](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 20, 2016*

Newly released state test results measuring students' academic growth show strong

progress for Denver Public Schools in English, slow going for Aurora Public Schools in math and a potentially alarming achievement gap for students with disabilities statewide.

[U.S. Education Department Awards 41 States and the District of Columbia \\$28.4 Million in Grants to Help Students From Low-Income Families Take Advanced Placement Tests](#)  
*RocketNews - September 20, 2016*

The U.S. Department of Education announced today that it has awarded \$28.4 million in Advanced Placement (AP) grants to 41 states and Washington, D.C. as part of its efforts to boost college- and career-readiness for historically underserved students. The grants will help defray the costs of taking advanced placement tests for students from low-income families.

[Colorado Springs-area students draw mixed results for academic growth](#)

*The Gazette - September 20, 2016*

The Colorado Department of Education released on Tuesday academic growth scores for English language arts and math, filling in the last empty bubble from new state assessments.

[One in four Colorado school districts are violating state transparency law](#)

*The Colorado Independent - September 19, 2016*

Only 57 percent of Colorado school districts fully comply with a state transparency law, independent watchdog group Colorado Ethics Watch has found.

[Ballots For Buildings: Front Range School Districts Ask Voters For Cash](#)

*KUNC - September 19, 2016*

Colorado continues to see population growth, which is leaving many schools facing a problem: too many students, too little room. This year, the squeeze is pushing more local school districts to turn to voters for relief.

[Why we're taking a closer look at how gentrification is changing schools - and how you can help](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 19, 2016*

Last year, a vocal group of parents were aghast that Denver Public Schools officials couldn't see the glaring need for a new comprehensive middle school in northwest Denver.

[Educators promote healthier lifestyles in Colorado's public charter schools](#)

*Colorado Watchdog.org - September 16, 2016*

High Point Academy in Aurora already focused on health and wellness more than many schools, but a recent program designed to boost participation in those endeavors statewide has kicked the school's efforts into overdrive.

[Bennet rolls out bill to boost career and tech programs for low-income students](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 16, 2016*

It's been a big week for career and technical training in Colorado. Following the kickoff of a new statewide apprenticeship program earlier in the week, Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet announced Friday he's co-sponsoring a bill to create a grant program to beef up the nation's career and technical offerings in public schools.

[Test Vendors Weigh In On Future of PARCC](#)

*EdWeek Market Brief - September 9, 2016*

We're playing a bit of catch-up here, but one of the country's big consortia of states

that sponsors common-core tests, PARCC, recently sought input on how it should reorganize itself to serve states.

## 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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CareerWise Colorado gets an A
The Denver Post - September 19, 2016

Colorado high school students are getting a good break and a shot at a better future in a recently announced apprenticeship initiative that aims to have 20,000 students training with companies offering good-paying jobs within the next several years.

On both sides, the diet soda debate falls flat
The Denver Post - September 17, 2016

Wow. We're fighting about diet soda. Anymore these days, it's like we've entered the Bermuda Triangle of politics.

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

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:** Friday, September 23.

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:** Friday, September 23. 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.

Family and School Partnership in Education Month Kickoff

Hosted by the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

Date: Thursday, October 6

Time: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Location: Colorado Department of Education Lobby, 201 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver

Description: The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) is pleased to announce that for the fifth consecutive year, Governor John Hickenlooper has designated October as Family and School Partnership in Education Month. The goal of this special month is to actively share information and support families and educators working together to ensure learning success for every student, from pre-school to post-secondary and workforce readiness. There will be a kick-off event on October 6th from 11:00 - 11:30 in the CDE lobby at 201 E. Colfax Avenue.

Information: For information, see this [event flyer](#) (PDF).

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.

Working in Your UIP

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, October 27

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$50 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee;

Non-Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

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

Description: Come spend the day working in your UIP with League support and collaborate with your peers so that you may leave this workshop with some sections completed! We will go through each component of the UIP (Data Narrative, Root Cause, Target Setting and Action Planning) and review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc), timelines and what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17. You will also leave with numerous tools and resources that will help you complete your plan and guide you through setting targets/goals during the recent assessment transition.

Note: This session is designed for people who are familiar with the UIP and have written a UIP before. If you are new to the UIP, please register for that session on November 9.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, October 24. Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

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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