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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



September 29, 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.



### **The Charter Hub**

The League is working with NAPCS and Rally Communications Firm on the Charter Hub. The Charter Hub is a partnership of different organizations working together to create a positive spotlight and national narrative that supports quality charter public schools. Currently, the Charter Hub is looking for stories connected to Hispanic Heritage Month. If your school has a program or event that ties to HHM, we'd love to hear from you. This may include: a celebration, an after school program, a project, or something of a more serious tone connected to DACA. Please email Kerri Barclay, Communications Manager at the League, at [kbarclay@coloradoleague.org](mailto:kbarclay@coloradoleague.org).

### **School Bus For Sale**

A school bus in Cripple Creek is for sale. It's a 1999 Navistar International school bus that seats 47 passengers. Other details include: possesses 142,868 miles, V8 Diesel (444E), and the annual inspection is done for the 2017-2018 school year. Sealed Bids accepted and minimum bid must exceed \$3500. Bids must be received by October 15 and sent to: Cripple Creek-Victor School, Attn: Elaine Hayden, Business Director, PO 897, Cripple Creek, CO 80813. Please contact Peter "Doc" DeKowzan at 719-689-2781 to learn more.

### **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.

### **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 to 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

[Boulder's Summit Middle, BVSD's first charter school, proposes adding a high school](#)  
*The Daily Camera - September 27, 2017*

Summit Middle School, founded 21 years ago as Boulder Valley's first charter school, is looking to start a high school. Summit first started exploring starting a high school two years ago as part of the XQ Super School Project.

[Littleton Public Schools considers later start times](#)  
*The Villager - September 27, 2017*

While Cherry Creek Schools adjusts to a later bell for high school students, its neighbor to the west, Littleton Public Schools, is mulling its own options as the scientific consensus increasingly agrees that the teenage brain needs more time to sleep in.

[SkyView Academy Class of 2018 SAT Scores Place in Top 20 in Colorado](#)  
*Your Hub - September 27, 2017*

SkyView Academy class of 2018 has something to celebrate these days. Colorado officially moved to the SAT college entrance exam from the ACT, which had been given to all Colorado juniors since 2001.

[Colorado Springs teacher accepts role as U.S. Department of Education fellow](#)  
*The Colorado Springs Gazette - September 26, 2017*

What do Mr. Harris' students at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Colorado Springs School District 11 like about their teacher?

[When charter schools unionize, students learn more, study finds](#)  
*Chalkbeat - September 24, 2017*

When charter school teachers push to unionize, charter leaders often fight back. That's happened in Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington DC.

[Mountain Village Montessori Charter School celebrates International Day of Peace](#)  
*Steamboat Today - September 22, 2017*

Students and staff of Mountain Village Montessori Charter School gathered to celebrate International Day of Peace Thursday with a message and candle-lighting by head of school Michael Girodo and a song.

[Aurora Public Schools' principals more racially diverse this year, but district still lagging behind](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 22, 2017*

In the most diverse city in Colorado, school district officials have struggled to hire and retain principals of color.

[Student deaths inspire suicide prevention conversation in Colorado communities](#)  
*The Denver Post - September 22, 2017*

The day after a second Littleton student in two days took his life, Arapahoe High School principal Natalie Pramenko started to cry halfway through her message on the school intercom.

An earlier start: Once rare, more Denver charter schools are embracing preschool  
*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 22, 2017*

In many ways, the new preschool in Denver's growing Green Valley Ranch neighborhood looks like any other preschool.

As Big ESSA Deadline Arrives, Many States Move Away From Summative Ratings for School Performance  
*The 74 - September 17, 2017*

Clear ratings are everywhere. To plan a single evening, you could use a city's food safety grades to pick a restaurant and Rotten Tomatoes' "percentage fresh" ratings to choose a movie, before relying on the collective reviews of Yelp's five-star rating system to select a bar to visit after the movie wraps.

## **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 Congratulates Recipients of 2017 U.S. Department of Education Charter Schools Program Grants

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - September 28, 2017

Today the U.S. Department of Education announced the recipients of \$253M in annual Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grants, the first such awards under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which include separate and specific grants for:

Letter to the editor: Let's keep up the momentum

Highlands Ranch Herald - September 27, 2017

Ironically, the Aug. 31 edition of this newspaper contained a trio of letters critical of the Elevate DC school board candidates along with an article about DougCo schools titled, "Test scores show growth, room for improvement."

World Compass Academy Students Get a Taste of Chinese Culture

World Compass Academy - September 25, 2017

World Compass Academy (WCA) students learning Mandarin Chinese will soon be celebrating Zhongqiujie, or the 'Mid-Autumn Festival.' This is the second largest festival in China after the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year), and is also widely celebrated in other Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao.

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

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.

Charter School Law Institute's Colorado Legal Seminar

Hosted by the Charter School Law Institute

Date: Friday, October 27

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: DPPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street, Denver

Cost: \$275 for one person and \$250 per additional attendee

Description: [Charter School Law Institute](#) will be running a one-day in-depth legal seminar on emerging federal and state civil rights issues. Through a combination of lectures and small-group breakout sessions led by local and national experienced legal counsel, they will: examine how to navigate immigration issues facing students and schools; learn how the US Supreme Court is raising expectations for public schools serving special education students; discuss how to prevent race discrimination, including unintentional and unconscious bias; review state and federal laws regarding LGBT students; and address issues specific to school discipline, bullying, harassment and sexual violence. Together, they will tackle the most cutting edge legal questions facing charter schools across the country. As an attendee, you will leave with concrete, practical strategies and tips on how to ensure you are in compliance of all related legal requirements and effectively serving all students.

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

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

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