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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



September 8, 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.



### **Register Today - The 2017 Charter School Policy & Facility Summit**

This year's event will take place on Monday, September 25 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM in Arvada. This summit will provide charter school leaders with the option of attending sessions related to policy and legal topics or facilities management and financing. It's an opportunity for charter school leaders to obtain important information about ongoing policy and legal updates and issues affecting their individual charter school and the sector at large. [Click here to register.](#) [Click here for agenda.](#)

### **Campus Companions: How To Handle Requests For Service And Assistance**

**Animals** - *Notice provided by Fisher Phillips*

School officials often receive requests from students with disabilities to bring "service animals" and "assistance animals" on campus as an accommodation. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), virtually all institutions are required to accommodate students with disabilities by allowing service animals nearly everywhere on campus, including public spaces, academic buildings, dwelling units, and other facilities. [Click here to read more.](#) For more information, contact the author at MPost@fisherphillips.com or 610-230-2146.

### **The Charter Leader Forum**

The Douglas County Charter Public School Alliance is hosting an all Charter School Forum on September 28 at 6:00 PM. American Academy - Lincoln Meadows in Parker will host this first of its kind event in Douglas County. The hope is to bring together people from every charter school community to hear and share points of view on the state of charter public schools in DCSD. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Reading Volunteers Needed**

Roots Elementary in Denver needs YOU, a member of your family or your neighbor to be a reading volunteer. Together they'd like to build a reading community for their children. Volunteers share books with a student one-on-one, one hour, once a week. Volunteers are needed Tuesdays and Fridays (volunteers choose one day) from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM. Program begins on September 12 and volunteers will be working with 3rd grade students. Only an enjoyment of being with kids is needed. They will help you choose the books and provide on-going support. If you are interested, please call the Roots office at 720-593-1338 or email Julie@partnersinliteracy.org.

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

Colorado schools, non-profit organizations, and state agencies have come together to provide a unique opportunity for Colorado schools. Take the first step in transforming

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

## News Articles

[XQ is taking over TV to make the case that high school hasn't changed in 100 years. But is that true?](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 6, 2017*

Education policy rarely makes national television. But on Friday night, a special focused on redesigning America's high schools - and featuring Tom Hanks, Jennifer Hudson, and Common - will be taking over the airwaves of ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX.

[Greeley charter school showing marked improvements using unique teaching model](#)

*The Complete Colorado - September 6, 2017*

Administrators at a charter school many repeatedly said would fail are basking in the glory of proving them wrong, thanks to a staff who worked overtime and the addition of a woman who brought with her a track record of success.

[Denver students walk out to protest end of DACA, and to call on Congress to act](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 5, 2017*

Students from more than 20 Denver schools walked out of class and converged on a downtown college campus Tuesday morning to protest President Trump's order to end a federal program that protects young undocumented immigrants from deportation.

[Teachers protected by DACA launch a new school year under a threatening cloud](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 5, 2017*

The morning after Donald Trump was elected president, a few teachers within Teach For America stayed home.

[Marijuana sales fund \\$9.2 million in school pot prevention, health care programs](#)

*The Denver Post - September 4, 2017*

School nurse Rhonda Valdez is on the front lines of student health at Wheat Ridge High School, treating myriad concerns - flu outbreaks, diabetes, severe allergies, body image issues, football-related concussions.

[Schoolteachers on Edge as Trump Mulls Changing 'Dreamers' Policy](#)

*U.S. News and World Report - September 2, 2017*

Maria Rocha does not generally discuss her immigration status with her third-graders at a San Antonio charter school. Sometimes, though, one finds out that she lacks legal authorization to live in the country, often a child in similar circumstances.

[Two student suicides in two days, both following social media posts, leave Littleton community seeking answers](#)

*The Denver Post - September 1, 2017*

In the twilight, they pointed the lights of their cellphones toward the students in the center of the circle. They numbered in the hundreds, gathered in a grassy park on a school night through the power of Snapchat.

[Top 12 school startup lessons, part 2](#)

*Thomas B. Fordham Institute - September 1, 2017*

As communities in every part of the nation are being reshaped by such forces as urbanization, gentrification, and immigration, the creation of new public schools is vital. When done right, the startup of new schools fosters innovation, engages parents, empowers educators, unlocks community resources, and creates new options for learners and families with differing needs and preferences.

Wild Cultivated For Experiential, Imaginative Play

*Roaring Fork Lifestyle - August 31, 2017*

With its verdant hoop house, shaggy berms, and dramatic climbing net, Carbondale's newest landmark, the Ross Montessori Elementary School playground, stirs the curious soul.

The 74 Interview: David Osborne Shares a Sneak Peek of His New Book, 'Reinventing America's Schools'

*The 74 - August 30, 2017*

David Osborne's eyes light up when he talks about proof. A nationally renowned public policy reformer who is most well known for writing the New York Times bestseller Reinventing Government: How the Entrepreneurial Spirit is Transforming the Public Sector, and who now serves as a director of the forward-thinking Reinventing America's Schools project at the Progressive Policy Institute, his animated tone and the sparkle in his eye suggest this particular proof is especially compelling.

## **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 the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - September 6, 2017

The Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee today recommended a \$25 million increase to the federal Charter Schools Program (CSP). National Alliance President and CEO Nina Rees has released the following statement in response to the Subcommittee's action:

Tribune Opinion: District 6 deserves our support after latest state ratings

The Tribune - September 2, 2017

Greeley-Evans School District 6 reached a landmark earlier this week. For the first time since the state began labeling schools based on their academic achievement and growth, District 6 has no schools labeled as "turnaround," which is the state's lowest-possible accountability rating.

Denver principals: Don't take our DREAMers

The Denver Post - September 1, 2017

In an increasingly divisive political environment, we are a group of school leaders asking for Colorado's support in protecting individuals critical to our school communities - our young leaders who also happen to be DREAMers.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

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

[Another View](#)

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

[Charter Schools In Perspective](#)

[Chartering Quality Blog \(National Association for Charter School Authorizers\)](#)

[Democrats for Education Reform Blog](#)

[EdisWatching.org \(Independence Institute\)](#)

[Education Post](#)

[National Alliance for Public Charter Schools - The Charter Blog](#)

[National Charter School Resource Center](#)

Community Calendar

Twice-Exceptional Foundations, Level 1, Fall 2017 Course Options

Hosted by CDE Exceptional Student Services Office

Dates: Full online course: September 11 - October 29 | Hybrid: October 2 - October 29 with one day face-to-face training on November 2

Cost: Free

Location: Online; Face-to-face training on November 2 at UNC Lowry, 1059 Alton Way, Denver

Audience: Any educator or mental health professional with an interest in learning more about gifted students with disabilities

Description: These course offerings are designed to provide you with:

- The ability to articulate and understand the complex needs of twice-exceptional students, both academic and social-emotional
- An awareness of how the learning environment and teaching style impact the success of twice-exceptional students
- A review of the basics of MTSS for use in twice-exceptional identification and programming
- The ability to define and utilize strength-based programming within a MTSS framework
- The skills necessary to identify evidence-based strategies for twice-exceptional students
- Suggestions for working with the parents of twice-exceptional learners
- The opportunity to collaborate with others to develop an educational plan that is responsive to the student's profile

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 8.

Close Reading Strategies Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note: Registration and payment covers three separate events. Please make sure you can attend each one.****

Dates/Times:

- Close Reading Strategies 101: Wednesday, September 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Close Reading Strategies 102: Wednesday, October 18 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Close Reading Strategies 103: Wednesday, November 15 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions.

Target Audience: Teachers, Reading and/or Literacy Specialists and Interventionists, Reading Across the Curriculum Teachers, Instructional Coaches

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will learn a variety of ways to teach Common Core State standards through close reading rituals and various systematic strategies. These strategies can be used across the content areas and with various curriculum components. Teachers will be able to experience the close reading rituals with a variety of text, standards, models, and time to adjust existing lesson plans to embed and implement the close reading strategies learned. We will also learn how to make a close reading strategy a ritual, embed interventions, and receive quality feedback through reciprocal peer feedback.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 8.

CDE Administrator Mentoring Cohort

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Wednesday, September 13

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Rocky Mountain Academy, 2959 Royale Elk Way, Evergreen

Description: A mentoring program that meets six times a year, geared toward new administrators or experienced administrators that are new to the charter school environment (though administrators outside these categories are welcome). Administrators will work as a cohort team, work one-on-one with a mentor, and participate in site observations as they build leadership capacity among new charter school administrators.

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

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, September 14

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$100 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee

Description: School leaders (principals, executive directors, etc.) are ultimately responsible for the operation and compliance of special education programming in their schools. Therefore, it is essential that school leaders, in addition to special education teachers/coordinators, understand the IDEA requirements for special education services and make sure their school is in compliance with these requirements. This workshop is designed to equip school leaders with 8 critical strategies for managing special education compliance.

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

Event is contingent on 8 attendees.

SAT/PSAT: School-Wide Overview

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, September 14

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

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

Audience: Educators who will be involved in the communication of test scores from April 2017 as well as the planning for next spring's administration. School assessment coordinators, counselors, principals and lead teachers are encouraged to attend this workshop.

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

Workshop topics include:

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

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

PowerSchool: Preparing for October Count

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 15

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

Members: \$125 for one person and \$25 each additional attendee

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

Meals: Lunch will not be provided

Description: The Student October Report does not have to be intimidating! During this workshop, attendees will break the report down into understandable segments and define the tasks and data associated with each piece. This is a hands-on workshop with time allotted for participants to work on their data.

Audience: Registrar, Secretary, PS System Admin, Enrollment/Admissions Staff, and Designated State Reporters

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

Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note: Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one.****

Dates/Times/Locations:

Wednesday, September 20 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

Date TBD (after September 20) | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

Wednesday, November 29 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver

Cost: \$500 per person for both PD sessions and On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching

Target Audience: Teachers in years 1-3 of teaching, Interventionists who teach larger groups of students, and anyone who is looking to improve their instructional practices in the classroom

Description: In this series of professional development sessions (one includes an on-site observation and instructional coaching segment), participants will engage in a variety of effective instructional strategies to practice and then implement in the classroom. Research states that instructional strategies need to be practiced over 20 times in order to become an automatic part of instructional practice. This workshop provides opportunities for practice, feedback and mentorship, planning and development of teaching routines, on-going support, and a risk-taking learning environment that supports teachers with a growth mindset.

Registration: [Click here to register and learn more.](#)

Charter School Policy & Facility Summit

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, September 25

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada

Cost: League Members: \$90 per person | Non-Members: \$130 per person | New School Developers*: \$50 per person.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Description: The 2017 Charter School Policy and Facility Summit will provide charter school leaders with the option of attending sessions related to policy and legal topics or facilities management and financing. This is an opportunity for charter school leaders to:

- Obtain important information about ongoing policy, legal updates and issues affecting their individual charter school and the sector at large
- Hear from legislators and State Board of Education members on issues these decision makers believe will impact the upcoming legislative session
- Share with League staff issues impacting their school and education community
- Gain valuable information about all stages of the facilities and financing process, from small projects to large construction and how to prepare your leadership for best practice decision making regarding facilities projects
- Learn about local and national stakeholders and experts in the areas of charter school policy, legal and facilities issues will be present to share their expertise and knowledge
- Determine outcomes from the Colorado Charter School Facilities Initiative Survey, and how this data will impact policy and technical assistance from the League and others in the sector

Agenda: Coming soon.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 15.

Formative and Summative Assessment Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note: Registration and payment covers three separate events. Please make sure you can attend each one.****

Dates/Times:

Wednesday, September 27 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, November 8 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, December 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions

Note: Lunch will be provided at each session.

Target Audience: Teachers, Specialists, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists, Administration

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will build background knowledge creating and using effective formative and summative assessment practices in their classroom. Attendees will be asked to bring assessment data, sample assessments, school-based lesson plans, and student work samples. In each of the sessions, participants will:

- Build background knowledge on various types of assessments
- Plan and implement assessment practices to support quality instruction
- Create structures for systematic checks for understanding
- Create quality criteria to discover what you want to learn from the assessment

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

2017 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Thursday, September 28

Time: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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

Description: The School Safety Resource Center team will meet on September 28 to present a day of training on child sexual abuse prevention. This annual symposium assists school professionals, communities and law enforcement in identifying, preventing, responding to and reporting child sexual abuse. Expert presenters will train on trauma-informed practices, current research and trends, and pertinent legislation. Be sure to attend this important and supportive event that is open to the public! Watch for registration information on future E-Updates.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 1.

Instructional Coaching Practices

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 29

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: This workshop will focus on two instructional coaching practices: 1.) Observation/Feedback Cycles, and 2.) Data Review Meetings.

Participants will:

- Learn and apply an observation/feedback protocol called the 6 Steps for Effective Feedback

- Determine what to coach along with how to coach by digging into the management and rigor trajectories for new teachers
- Master and apply a simple protocol for engaging in 1:1 data meetings that harness the standard-based teaching and learning cycle
- Learn about tools and resources for ensuring accountability loops and tracking teacher growth

References:

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, *Leverage Leadership: A Practical Guide to Building Exceptional Schools*, 2012.

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, *Get Better Faster: A 90 Day Plan for Coaching New Teachers*, 2016.

Doug Lemov, *Practice Perfect: 42 Rules for Getting Better and Getting Better*, 2012.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 27.

Deconstructing Bias: Creating Equity in Schools - Annual Educators Conference

Hosted by the Colorado Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (CO-NAME)

Date: Friday, September 29

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: \$100 per person.

Description: Learn about the national and local efforts to deconstruct bias for staff, students and families as a community.

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

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, October 4

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$225 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

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

Description: In this professional development session, participants will create a product called the "Data Team Action Plan" as an end outcome. Through various readings, use of research-based resources and explicit modeling, participants will build background knowledge about data team structures. The "Data Team Action Plan" will be written as a data teams implementation plan to support data teams over time in your school as well as engage in intervention based instructional strategies that will support data teams next steps.

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 29.

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: Coming soon.

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.

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

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