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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
 CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement



September 9, 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

### Free Student Desks

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

### The League is Hiring: Director of Research & Data Analysis

Exciting News! The League is hiring for a [Director of Research and Data Analysis](#). This is a full-time position that will work on visionary research projects to help advance the League and the entire charter public school movement. This role will also provide assistance to League member schools that are seeking data analysis and documentation for internal and external accountability and advocacy efforts. Please share [this opportunity](#) with your networks and with anyone who might be a good fit for this position. The deadline for applications is Friday, September 16.

### Register Today for the 2016 Fall Charter School Summit

**Formerly the Annual Finance Seminar and Policy & Facility Summit**

**Date/Time:** Monday, September 26 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Location:** Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada  
 The Fall Charter School Summit is designed to provide charter school leaders, business managers and board members with important updates related to policy, finance and facilities management. Innovations in the field of operations and financial management as well as ongoing policy issues affecting charter schools will be highlighted. Attendees

will also hear from individuals experienced in all aspects of the charter school facilities process and learn decision-making best practices regarding facilities projects for their schools. Register today at [www.coloradoleague.org/event/2016FallSummit](http://www.coloradoleague.org/event/2016FallSummit)

### **\$2,000 CollegeInvest Matching Grant for College Expenses**

The CollegeInvest Matching Grant Program is designed to help middle to lower-income Colorado families save for higher education, this Matching Grant Program can provide eligible account owners with dollar-for-dollar matching funds when they open and contribute to a CollegeInvest 529 College Savings Program account.

- \* Receive a \$1 for \$1 match on contributions to a CollegeInvest savings account
- \* The student-beneficiary must be 12 years old or younger when you first apply
- \* Applications are accepted September 1 through December 31 each year
- \* Up to \$2,000 per account\*

For more information please go to: <https://www.collegeinvest.org/scholarships/matching-grant-program-en>

### **Donated School Furniture**

The Boulder Valley School District Innovation project is underway and they'd like to donate approximately 300 used and in good condition middle school desks and chairs and 50 used and in good condition elementary desks and chairs. All available for pick up. "BVSD's Green Building Guiding Principles and the LEED system call for diverting construction waste from landfills through recycling and reuse." [Click flyer](#) to learn more. Please contact Chris Mabbitt at [c.mabbitt@bcinteriors.com](mailto:c.mabbitt@bcinteriors.com) or Susan Heller at [s.heller@bcinteriors.com](mailto:s.heller@bcinteriors.com) or 303-443-3666 with questions.

### **Resources for Sale**

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

## **News Articles**

[What the heck is STEM? \(And 8 other questions you may be too embarrassed to ask\)](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 8, 2016*

STEM ... it's not your father's science class. But what the heck is it?

It's a good question. Chalkbeat has spent months exploring efforts across the state to bring a special blend of science, technology, engineering and math to more classrooms.

[Douglas County School Board launches formal process to find a seventh member](#)

*The Denver Post - September 8, 2016*

The Douglas County School Board voted to accept the resignation of member on Thursday, putting into motion a nearly six-week process to appoint his successor.

[Colorado Children's Campaign names new leader](#)

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 7, 2016*

The longtime CEO of a Denver-based youth development organization has been named the new leader of the Colorado Children's Campaign, an advocacy group known for its work on child health and education issues. Kelly Causey, CEO of Mile High Youth Corps, will take the post Oct. 3, replacing former President and CEO Chris Watney.

### Zika virus poses few concerns for Colorado schools

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 7, 2016*

In Florida, the Zika virus has raised alarm among some school officials, prompting bug spray giveaways and stepped up mosquito-control efforts on school grounds. That's not the case in Colorado.

### Loveland Classical buys old building, lot for new school

*Reporter-Herald News - September 7, 2016*

Loveland Classical Schools has changed its vision and will maintain two campuses instead of bringing all grade levels back into one school. The charter school recently purchased, for \$6.85 million, the 43,000-square-foot building that it had been leasing and will maintain that facility, 3835 SW14th St., as its elementary school.

### Board doesn't accept Benevento's resignation

*Douglas County News-Press - September 7, 2016*

District E will be without a voice on the Douglas County Board of Education longer than expected after the board did not formally accept Doug Benevento's resignation in a 3-3 vote at a special meeting Sept. 6.

### Few Colorado kids have access to STEM experiences, Chalkbeat survey finds

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 7, 2016*

In Longmont, preschoolers learn the basics of coding by giving directions to a robot named Dash that moves across the floor. In Pueblo, fifth graders study the way germs move around the room and must decide whether soap and water or hand sanitizer does a better job of stopping them.

### After recession, America's poor schools fall behind

*The Durango Herald - September 6, 2016*

Consider Waukegan and Stevenson, two Illinois school districts separated by 20 miles - and an enormous financial gulf.

### For a longtime Denver charter school, one more chance at rebirth

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 6, 2016*

When the Wyatt-Edison charter school opened in 1998 in one of Denver's poorest neighborhoods, optimism abounded.

### Adams 12 hopes to overcome history to get \$350 million bond issue passed

*The Denver Post - September 4, 2016*

Backers of a \$350 million bond issue in Adams 12 Five Star School District say they've learned from two previous ballot defeats and vow this time to convince voters that healthy schools are vital to the growing communities in the north Denver suburbs.

### Denver catching up to state in test scores, though some schools slipped

*The Colorado Independent - September 2, 2016*

Denver Public Schools students did better on nearly every state English and math test this past spring than they did the previous spring, according to scores released Thursday.

### Frequent critic of DPS applauds latest test scores

*9News - September 2, 2016*

In classrooms around Denver, something is happening that has A+ Colorado and its executive director, Van Schoales, perplexed.

For Colorado schools on verge of state intervention, PARCC scores provide first clues of promise or peril

*Chalkbeat Colorado - September 2, 2016*

The staff and students at M. Scott Carpenter Middle School, one of Colorado's lowest-performing schools, boosted their test scores after a year focused on literacy, using technology to speed up learning, and building relationships between students and teachers.

## 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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Reporting of test results should have been handled better

The Tribune - September 7, 2016

The Colorado Department of Education released another round of standardized test results on Thursday.

Education Blogs, Forums and Resources

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

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

[Charter School Solutions Blog](#)

[Charter Schools In Perspective](#)

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

[Democrats for Education Reform Blog](#)

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

[Education Post](#)

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

[National Charter School Resource Center](#)

Community Calendar

Webinar: I Just Joined a Charter School Board...Now What?

Hosted by the National Charter School Resource Center

Date: Thursday, September 15

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Description: Great charter schools need great board members. However, no one goes to school to become a great charter school board member. Often for new board members, "onboarding" consists of being thrown right into the work without any training or background information. Many think that being an effective board member is something one can just figure out along the way. However, governance best practice research suggests that all board members can benefit from as they learn their roles and responsibilities. This session will provide a framework and strategies for governing effectively, with real-life examples and case studies throughout. We encourage new charter board members as well as school leaders and experienced board members, who may be involved with training new board members, to participate in this webinar.

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

Gifted Education 101

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

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: Founding principal and Academy Director Nikki Myers and founding teacher and gifted education specialist Teresa Brown will guide participants in the following objectives:

- Awareness of the definition of giftedness and requirements in the state of Colorado for each charter and traditional public school.
- Awareness 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.
- Sample Advanced Learning Plan formats that meet requirements for Colorado.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 14.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

PowerSchool: Preparing for October Count

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$125 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee

What to Bring: Your computer and your school's enrollment/application forms

Prerequisites: Must have administrator access, familiarity with PS's enrollment/application process and ability to export data from PS to work with data in Excel

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

Description: The Student October Report doesn't have to be intimidating! During this time, we will break the report down into understandable pieces and define the tasks and data associated with each piece. This is a hands-on workshop with time built in for you to work on your data.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 14.

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates: Monday, September 19

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Audience: School Leaders, Data and Assessment Staff

Description: Review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc.), timelines and how

they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you.

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, September 20

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: Free

Location: Online/Webinar

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

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

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates: Tuesday, September 20

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Audience: School Leaders, Data and Assessment Staff

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

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Couragion

Date: Thursday, September 22

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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

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

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

- How students explore careers and create personalized learning plans and accomplishment portfolios

- How teachers access professional development, lesson plans, and real-time data to improve teaching and learning
- How administrators leverage insights about student's preferences, values, and interests to shape culture and drive student outcomes

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

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

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

Fall Charter School Summit: Facility, Finance & Policy **Formerly the Annual Finance Seminar and Policy & Facility Summit**

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, September 26

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$75 per person for schools that are members of the Colorado League of Charter Schools | \$100 per person for non-members. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Group Discount: There is a 20% discount when registering groups of three or more. Please enter discount code 20GROUP at checkout when registering three or more attendees.

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

Description: The Fall Charter School Summit is designed to provide charter school leaders, business managers and board members with important updates related to policy, finance and facilities management. Innovations in the field of operations and financial management as well as ongoing policy issues affecting charter schools will be highlighted. Attendees will also hear from individuals experienced in all aspects of the charter school facilities process and learn decision-making best practices regarding facilities projects for their schools.

Please note: The 2016 Fall Charter School Summit represents a combination of what had previously been two separate events - the CDE Annual Charter School Finance Seminar and the League's Charter School Policy and Facility Summit. Consistent with prior requirements of the Finance Seminar, all CCSP Grant recipients are required to attend this event.

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

Interpreting Reading Data to Close Gaps and Strengthen Student Achievement

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, September 27

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

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

Description: What evidence do you use to identify reading ability gaps and struggling readers? Build expertise in interpreting reading assessment data in order to accurately identify reading needs. Learn to select targeted instructional strategies appropriate for struggling readers and their specific needs.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 21.
Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 registrants.

State Assessment Interpretation & Action

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, September 28

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

Non-Members: \$225 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

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

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

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

Event is contingent on a minimum of 16 registrants.

Webinar: Using NWEA MAP Data to Differentiate Instruction

Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, September 29

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Cost: Free

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

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, October 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

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

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

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

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, October 7

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

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

Description: Is the honeymoon period over? Are students displaying challenging behaviors that impact their learning and the learning of others? Not sure where to go

next? This workshop is designed to enable school administrators, special education teachers, and other stakeholders to craft effective Tier II and Tier III behavior intervention plans for struggling students. Additionally, the workshop will provide training on Functional Behavioral Assessments, an essential component of the IEP process when a behavioral or developmental disorder is suspected. School Personnel will take away several resources for best practices in behavior interventions: data collection tools, behavior change monitoring tools, strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS, social emotional learning intervention programs, and sample MTSS structures for behavior/social emotional learning.

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

Event contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

2016 Colorado Safe Schools Summit

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

Dates: Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13

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

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

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

Plenary speakers scheduled to present:

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

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

Webinar: Using NWEA MAP Data to Differentiate Instruction

Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, October 13

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Cost: Free

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

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

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Amplify

Date: Thursday, October 20

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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

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

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

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

5th Annual NWEA MAP Users Conference

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and NWEA

Date: Friday, October 21

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Board Fundamentals

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

Date: Friday, October 28

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: TBD

Cost: \$35 per person

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

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

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

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