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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

December 2015



Welcome

Dear New School Developers,

The decision to start a charter school is a monumental one and indicates a commitment to taking the time necessary to research, build support, assemble a team and ultimately design a school that meets a need in your community. When asked what the most critical element is in developing a successful school, we have noticed that it always comes back to TIME! *It typically takes 18 months to three years to bring a charter school from theory to reality.* The first phase alone, if done well, is very time consuming as you research charter school law and best practice, visit other schools, learn about the state accountability system, garner support in the community and build a team with a diverse set of skills. To learn more about the many steps involved in charter school development, please visit the [Start a Charter Colorado Flowchart](#) and gain quick access to many of the resources necessary to start a school.

Whether you are in the preliminary exploration stage, actively working on your application or have been approved and are in either Year-0 or Year-1, this monthly newsletter will offer you critical resources, helpful tips and information on important *events and trainings* so that your school can garner a solid foundation with a high likelihood of success.

If you haven't come in for a face-to-face meeting yet, please schedule that with us at your convenience!

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New School Webinar Series

New School Development Webinar Series

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is pleased to announce updates and new offerings in our free webinar series for new charter school developers. These 90-minute webinars are designed for people who are in the process of developing a charter school application; however, anyone is welcome to attend.

Each monthly webinar will focus on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application. Each webinar is held the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, and typically runs from 9:00 AM -10:30 AM or 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM as noted. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate!

Register Today for these upcoming webinars:

[Tuesday, December 1: Developing a Performance Management Strategy](#)

[Tuesday, January 5: Revising Your Application Based on Feedback](#)

The following is a list of webinars coming later in 2016. Registration information will be provided soon. Please save the date.

Tuesday, February 2 - Contracting with Outside Education Service Providers (new)

Tuesday, March 1 - Overview of Relevant Education Laws

Tuesday, April 5 - Negotiating a Charter Contract

Tuesday, May 3 - Writing SMART Goals

Click on the links below to view recent New School Webinars that you may have missed:

[What you Need to Know About the State Assessment Transition, Accountability Timeline and the UIP for the 2015-16 School Year](#)
[Charter School Facilities Overview](#)

Be sure to check in after the first of the year for our comprehensive, new Facilities Webinar Series!

Resources of the Month

Spring Application Cycle Information

If you are planning to submit an application to an authorizer in the spring cycle, please contact us immediately to set up your two-part application review! The League's comprehensive, two-part application review process has helped countless groups revise and refine their application before they submit it to their authorizer. The review is an eight week process and requires an approved Stage 5 Planning Grant application before the review can begin. Please call or email [Kathy Zlomke](mailto:kathy.zlomke@coloradoleague.org) to schedule your review,(303) 989-5356, ext. 104. [Click here to download a Stage 5](#)

[Planning Grant Application.](#)

Stand Out: A Guide to School Marketing

[Stand Out: A Guide to School Marketing](#). Whether you are just getting started with marketing and outreach or have been working on it for some time, this guide will help you launch or refresh your marketing and recruiting efforts.

Charter Schools: Part of the Public School Family

Earlier this month, the League launched a public awareness campaign about charter public schools. The theme is: "Charter Schools: Part of the Public School Family." The purpose of the campaign is to educate the general public about charter schools and to dispel some of the common myths about charters. We hope we can count on you to spread the word about this campaign -- and to use the campaign materials when educating families about charter schools.

Website:

Visit www.CharterPublic.org and share this link with your school's families and prospective families.

Advertising:

[Click here to listen to our 15 second radio spot](#) which is airing on Colorado Public Radio KCFR/90.1 FM News and KVOD/88.1 FM Classical now through March 18.

[Click here to view our print ad](#) which will appear in *5280 Magazine* in December, January and February.

[Click here to view our web ads](#) that will appear as follows:

- Colorado Public Radio (www.cpr.org) - November 16 - March 18
- *5280 Magazine* (www.5280.com/kidsandfamily) - December - February
- *5280 Kids and Family* electronic newsletter - January - February
- 9News.com - January - March
- Chalkbeat Colorado (<http://co.chalkbeat.org/>) - January 2015

If you have any questions about the League's charter school public awareness campaign, please contact Stacy Rader at 303-989-5356, ext. 112 or srader@coloradoleague.org.

Mark Your Calendar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Whether you are in the application development phase, have been approved and are in Year-0 or are a Year-1 school, there are critical professional development opportunities listed below for everyone. Please take some time to review the offerings and always know that you can visit the [League Calendar](#) for upcoming trainings any time. If you are not certain that a training pertains to you at your stage of school development, please feel free to contact the [New School Development](#) office to learn more.

Webinar: Developing a Performance Management

Strategy

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, December 1

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: Webinar. Please use a valid email address when registering and the URL will be emailed to you before December 1.

Cost: Free

Description: Performance management is data-driven decision making that is facilitated by the use of high quality strategies and systems that gather, organize, analyze, report, and share information about student and school performance. Join this webinar to gain best practice around creating a strong PM culture for your school, understand key components to write it into your application, grant and budget, pitfalls to avoid, resources and more.

This will be part of a free webinar series for new charter school developers. These 90-minute webinars are designed for people who are in the process of developing a charter school application; however, anyone is welcome to attend. Each monthly webinar will focus on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application. Each webinar is held the first Tuesday of the month.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** November 30.

Developing & Applying Effective Behavior Interventions

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, December 8

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Member or New School Developer: \$175 for first attendee; Non-member: \$250 for first attendee. Additional Attendees: \$100 per person.

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:** December 6.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 12 attendees.

Webinar: Revising Your Application Based on Feedback

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, January 5

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: Webinar. Please use a valid email address when registering and the URL will be emailed to you before January 5.

Cost: Free

Description: This webinar will provide information on how to take feedback and information you find through research, training, networking, school visits, an application review or other resources, and use it to more thoroughly develop a quality charter application. Developers will hear from the Program Manager of New School Development and a successful charter applicant that applied one year without success, participated in the League's planning grant program, hired consultants, spent an additional year developing a more complete application, used feedback from the League's application review process, and was successful in getting an application approved the second time it was submitted.

This will be part of a free webinar series for new charter school developers. These 90-minute webinars are designed for people who are in the process of developing a charter school application; however, anyone is welcome to attend. Each monthly webinar will focus on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application. Each webinar is held the first Tuesday of the month.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** January 4.

Business Manager Network Meeting

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

Date: Friday, January 8

Time: Registration 8:30 AM; Meeting 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: OfficeScapes, 2506 Zeppelin Road, Colorado Springs

Cost: \$35 per person

Description: These meetings are hosted jointly by the SOC Unit and the Colorado League of Charter Schools and occur bi-monthly on Fridays during the school year. Each meeting includes the Business Manager 101 course for those with less than three years' experience, networking and troubleshooting for more experienced managers, and Responsive and Technical Expert presentations on key issues of relevance to all business managers.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** January 5.

Save the Date for Future Business Manager Network Meetings:

Friday, March 11

Friday, May 13

Charter Communicators Network Meeting

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 14

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 South Spruce Street, Centennial

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: \$25 per person; Non-Members: \$75 per person

Note: 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.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** January 11.

Lunch & Learn: Purpose-Driven Comprehensive Assessment Planning

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and NWEA

Date: Thursday, January 14

Time: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: Free; Non-members: \$30 per person.

Description: Join your charter colleagues and Brad Banich, NWEA Senior Account Executive, for this interactive learning and work session in which you will:

- Investigate and discuss important questions to ask about interim assessment characteristics.
- Reflect on beliefs about assessment purposes and which can have the biggest impact on student learning and growth.
- Determine how aligned your current assessment tools and practices are with your beliefs about assessment purposes.

This session will be most beneficial when attended by at least two members of your school staff.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** January 12.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 attendees.

Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, January 15

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

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

Description: Are your students with specific learning disabilities in reading still not closing the gap after the third cycle of the Wilson Reading System? Far too often, students placed in special education for reading disabilities are simply pushed through a research-based scope and sequence such as the Wilson Reading System which rarely yield dramatic student gains. This is because 1) research-based programming is not a "one size fits all" remedy for reading deficiencies, and 2) the magic is in the implementation, not the box set. Special Education teachers must adeptly diagnose root cause gaps in skills and knowledge, and specially design curriculum and instruction to address these personalized needs- and they must do it efficiently. Participants will understand the different cognitive processing of reading, and will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle:

- Teachers collect various screeners that assess the different processing of reading.
- Teachers plot and analyze screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Teachers triangulate data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Teachers prioritize instruction through a problem solving process.
- Teachers implement prioritized instruction and progress monitor

goals/objectives.

Teachers review progress monitoring and adjust 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:** January 13.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 attendees.

6th Annual PowerSchool Users Conference

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 21 and Friday, January 22

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Location: Cherry Creek School District School Achievement Resource Center, 14188 Briarwood Ave, Centennial

Cost: Early Bird Rate - One day: \$150 per person, Two days: \$175 person Rate increases December 14th. Regular registration rate - One day: \$200 per person, Two days: \$225 per person. *Groups of 3 or more enter the discount code PSGROUP at checkout for \$25 off per person.

Description: The Colorado PowerSchool Users Conference is presented in collaboration with multiple districts and schools. The Conference will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics designed for beginner, intermediate, and advanced PowerSchool users.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** January 15.

Principal Leadership Conference

Hosted by Catapult Leadership, Third Future and University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Date: Friday, January 22 - Saturday, January 23

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Location: University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs

Cost: \$235 per person.

Audience: This conference is focused on the training of school principals, assistant principals, principal supervisors, and those wanting to lead education reform.

Description: During this decade of tumultuous change and a period in which public education is trying to adapt to new workplace requirements and perpetual advances in technology, society needs great principals to guide the creation of effective and adaptive schools. Hone your skills and grow capacity at this conference. The Principal Leadership Conference will provide the latest training and research on the characteristics and skills of effective and future school leaders.

Key presenters:

Margaret Spellings, former Secretary of Education

Kati Haycock, President of Education Trust

Mike Miles, former Superintendent of Dallas ISD

Barbara O'Brien, President of Catapult Leadership

Breakout sessions include:

- Eight principal competencies
- Advanced leadership

- Systems thinking and action planning
- The art and science of communication
- Effective principal evaluation
- The role of the principal supervisor
- Leading change
- Creating an adaptive and high-performance culture
- Talent development - mentoring and coaching teachers
- Providing effective instructional feedback
- Changing the teacher recruitment paradigm

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

Core Knowledge Conference 2016

Hosted by Woodrow Wilson Academy

Date: Friday, February 12

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Woodrow Wilson Academy, 8300 W. 94th Avenue, Westminster

Description: Make a plan to join us for a day of learning and networking!

- Presentations by teachers from across the state
- Roundtable sessions for teachers and administrators
- Networking opportunities to meet other teachers and administrators

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

2016 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

Straight A's: Autonomy, Accountability, Achievement

Presented by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, February 25 - Saturday, February 27

Location: Omni Interlocken Resort, 500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield

Cost: Special discounted rates available for new school developers

Description: The Colorado Charter Schools Conference is the largest annual professional development and networking opportunity for Colorado charter schools. Each year, the conference features over 60 breakout sessions on a variety of charter school topics. Whether you are a new or veteran charter school leader, business manager, board member, teacher or just someone wanting to know more about the charter school community, the Colorado Charter Schools Conference has something for you.

NEW THIS YEAR: A variety of breakout sessions for charter school teachers will be available on Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27.

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

[Click here for more information.](#)

Information from CDE Schools of Choice Office

Each month, this section will provide updates and resources from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)'s Schools of Choice Office.

The Schools of Choice unit at CDE hosts an events page that should be checked frequently as there are always important and relevant workshops and seminars for developing schools that CDE Schools of Choice offers.

[Click here](#) for the events page.

CDE's Schools of Choice Office provides a variety of Technical Assistance events for developing, new, and continuing charter schools. [Click here](#) to learn more about these offerings, see their schedule of events, and register for their trainings.

CDE's Schools of Choice Office puts out a twice-monthly "SOC Update" email and other important announcements through its Charter School ListServ. [Click here](#) to sign up.

In Every Issue

The following information is included in each newsletter as they are valuable resources to keep on your radar.

Educating your Community

Even 20 years into the life of charter schools in Colorado, it is amazing how many people don't really understand what charter schools are and that they are public schools. New and developing schools will find this video to be a great introduction at community meetings and other outreach efforts.



What is a Charter School?

Additionally, the following links will be useful for you to remain focused on the facts in your community:

[Charter School Facts](#)

[Charter School Infographics](#)

New School Development Resources

Visit the League's [New School Development](#) page for sample model documents, upcoming events, information about grants and much. Check back frequently for updates!

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