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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

February 2014



Welcome

New school developers at every stage of development will find news and resources in this newsletter to better ensure that they develop a quality charter school. Never hesitate to contact Lori Ventimiglia and Kathy Zlomke in the New School Development office at the Colorado League of Charter Schools for questions, sample documents or other resources that you are looking for as you develop your school.

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We've Moved

Colorado League of Charter Schools' New Address

On February 26, the League moved to a new office location. Our new address is:

**2696 South Colorado Blvd., Suite 250
Denver, CO 80222**

Our phone number (303-989-5356), fax number (303-984-9345) and email addresses all remain the same.

Please be patient with us this week as we get settled into our new office. It's possible that our phones and emails may be down at times but we're hoping that everything will be up and running as normal by Friday, February 28th at

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Contact Us

**Colorado League of
Charter Schools**
New Schools Division
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the latest.

If you have any questions or need directions to our new office, please contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) or [Kathy Zlomke](#).

Planning Grant Updates

Apply Now for a Planning Grant

Whether you are in the very earliest stages of developing a charter school, have been approved and are working on opening your doors or are somewhere in between, we have planning grants to address your new school development needs at every stage! Thanks to generous contributions from the the Anschutz Foundation and the Daniels Fund, planning grant funds are available for developing groups across the state. [Click here](#) to access the guidelines and applications.

NOTE: Planning Grants for the Denver/Metro area, including Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Denver, Jeffco, Englewood and Brighton, are going quickly. Please check with Lori Ventimiglia at lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org prior to working on a grant application.

Upcoming Events

Charter School Boot Camp

Hosted by Colorado Department of Education Schools of Choice Office

Dates: Wednesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 3

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM each day

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

Cost: \$20 per person, per day. Coffee and lunch included.

Description: If you are working on a charter application, or just thinking about starting a charter school, you should attend this two-day training designed to help planning teams, in both early and late stage planning, get a clear picture of the realities of opening and operating a school.

As we continue to raise the bar in terms of school accountability in Colorado, we have a growing need to help charter planning teams ensure they are truly prepared to open and operate a school before getting a charter or applying for the CCSP grant. The Boot Camp is designed to support new school developers in finding the gaps in their plan, expertise and personnel so that they can fill these gaps before they open -- giving you the best chance for success.

The Charter School Boot Camp will play a key role in progress toward the following goals:

- Identify promising strategies to promote charter school growth in tough economic times.
- Improve knowledge of and ability to navigate the charter school development and application process.
- Improve charter school leader effectiveness.
- Improve authorizer feedback and review processes to impact charter quality (by including authorizers as a panel to speak to planning teams).

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DYH8LJH>

Deadline: Monday, March 31 at 8:00 AM

New School Developer Webinars

If you are a new school developer, you and your team should watch the New School Developer Webinar series. These up-to-date 90 minute webinars are free, and are designed for people who are in the process of developing a charter school application; however, anyone is welcome to view them. Each webinar focuses on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application, and include the newest legislative updates in the topic areas.

Webinar topics include:

- Developing a Performance Management Strategy
- Writing SMART Goals
- Overview of the State Accountability System
- Overview of Relevant Education Laws

Each webinar runs approximately an hour and half. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate! You can access these pre-recorded webinars on the League [website](#).

Charter School Jobs

6th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair

Date: Saturday, March 15

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Peak to Peak Charter School, 800 Merlin Drive, Lafayette

Description: The Charter School Teacher Job Fair is the only teacher job fair in Colorado exclusively for charter schools and presents an excellent opportunity for schools and teaching candidates to participate in face-to-face interviews and discuss career opportunities. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and schools from Colorado and surrounding states attend this job fair. Over 40 charter schools and 600 teacher candidates attend this annual event!

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

League Job Board

Be sure to post your school's job openings on the Colorado League of Charter Schools' website at www.coloradoleague.org/jobs Job postings are free for new charter school developers. You will need to create a profile on the League's website at www.coloradoleague.org to get started. For assistance, email Jeff Johnson at jjohnson@coloradoleague.org

Information from CDE Schools of Choice Office

CDE's Schools of Choice Office provides a variety of Technical Assistance events for developing, new, and continuing charter schools. You can learn more about these offerings, see their schedule of events, and register for their trainings at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/chartecalendar>.

CDE's Schools of Choice Office puts out a twice-monthly "SOC Update" email and other important announcements through its Charter School

ListServ. To sign up visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/joinlistserv>

The Colorado Department of Education administers the Colorado Charter Schools Program grant, which provides federal funding in Start-up and Implementation phases over a 3-year grant to new and significantly-expanding charter schools. Two application rounds (Tier I & Tier II) are offered each year, with the RFP, information and documents for this Start-up Grant available [here](#). The 2013-14 Tier I process is already underway, but schools can begin preparing for Tier II which requires a mandatory January 8th training, Intent to Submit and Eligibility Forms by January 14th and application due February 18th. See RFP for eligibility rules and application instructions.

2013-14 CCSP Guidebook released

The CDE Schools of Choice office recently released the 2013-14 CCSP Guidebook, which is now available on our Colorado Charter Schools Program Grant page. This document serves as a desk reference for schools in the CCSP grant program, and also contains descriptions of our Technical Assistance offerings for the year. Included in the guidebook:

- 2013-14 CCSP Grant Calendar
- 2013-14 CCSP Technical Assistance Calendar
- Overview of the CCSP program
- CCSP Grant Budget Instructions/Guidelines
- General Grant Management tips
- Technical Assistance Offering descriptions
- 2013-14 CCSP Technical Assistance Requirements
- A variety of forms, templates, and resources

In Every Issue

The following three links are included in each newsletter as they are such valuable resources to keep on your radar:

What is a Charter School?

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.



Video: What is a Charter School?

Additionally, the following link will be useful for you to remain focused on the facts in your community: <http://www.coloradoleague.org/colorado-charter-schools/charter-schools-fact-sheet.php>

New School Development Resources

<http://www.coloradoleague.org/audiences/developers.php> - This is the New School Development page of the League's website. There are sample model documents, upcoming events, information about grants and much more on this page. Check back frequently for updates!

CDE Schools of Choice Events Page

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/chartregstart.asp> - This is the events page for the Schools of Choice Unit at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). This site should also be checked frequently as there are always important and relevant workshops and seminars for developing schools offered by the CDE Schools of Choice Unit.

League Professional Development Trainings

If you are a new school opening this year, don't forget that the League offers important trainings to support you as you move into your implementation phase. See the link below for more information:

<http://www.coloradoleague.org/news-and-events/league-trainings.php>

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