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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Colorado League of Charter Schools. Don't forget to add info@coloradoleague.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

January 2016



Welcome

Annual Quality Outcomes and Targeted Supports Edition

We are excited to continue to support you in 2016 with a vast array of services (some new) that we have been providing charter school developers for over 20 years! Our first newsletter of the new year is intended to provide an overview of the [Six Quality Outcomes](#) schools should have in place by the end of year-1 as well as the targeted supports for new schools that the League's New School Development department provides to help you attain these outcomes.

From the earliest stages of development through the end of year-1, the League's New School Development team strives to meet your needs with critical and timely supports (many of them free) every step along the way! We hope that you find this information helpful. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Happy New Year!

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2016 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

REGISTER NOW!

2016 Colorado Charter School Conference

Straight A's: Autonomy. Accountability. Achievement.

February 25-27 2016

Omni Interlocken Hotel, 500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield, CO 80021

PLANNING GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR NEW SCHOOL DEVELOPERS

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Contact Us

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TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE! Contact [Lori Ventimiglia](mailto:Lori.Ventimiglia) immediately if you are interested.

The Colorado Charter Schools Conference is the largest gathering of the Colorado charter school community. There are over 60 breakout sessions including a Kick-Off Workshop designed specifically for new school developers.

The conference sessions cover a wide range of charter related topics - school leadership, teacher effectiveness, governance, finance, human resources, legal issues, facilities, and more.

Join over 700 attendees at the Colorado Charter Schools Conference to learn and share best practices in all areas of a charter school, from the classroom, to the business office, to the board room, and more. Meet other new school developers, hear about lessons learned from those who have already opened a school and attend sessions in all areas of charter school governance and operations to better develop a quality application!

For more information, visit www.cocharterconference.org.

Six Quality Outcomes: Planning Backwards From The End Of Year-1

Six Quality Outcomes: Planning Backwards from the End of Year-1



- **Qualified and Competent School Leadership:** Leader has instilled confidence from teachers, parents, board and students and has effectively begun to implement many components of school proposal.
- **Sound Operational Practices:** Foundations for strong fiscal management and effective business operations have been established and are being adhered to.
- **Functional Governing Board:** Board has obtained initial training, is committed to ongoing training, and adheres to state statutes and board policies with fidelity.
- **Effective Academics & Instruction:** Curriculum is being effectively implemented and instructional staff engages students for optimal learning.
- **Robust Performance Management Plan:** Data from a Data Management System and Interim Assessments are being used effectively to guide instruction.
- **Clear, Mission-Driven School Culture:** A strong, mission-driven culture has been established and can be easily observed throughout most aspects of the school.

The League believes that these Quality Outcomes are critical to have in place at the end of your school's first year and, as such, we provide targeted supports at each stage of development to help accomplish this.



Targeted Supports from the League

Below is a list of targeted supports the League's New School Development department provides ranging from the earliest stage of charter school development to the end of year-1.

Targeted Supports in the Early Exploration Stage and Application Development:

- Face to face/phone meetings with developer/team to assess capacity, discuss authorizer landscape, statutory requirements, application process, resources, etc.
- Planning timeline documents, model and sample application sections, budget templates and other resources.
- Ongoing technical support as needed.
- Planning grants designed to significantly contribute to the actual charter application.
- Extensive two-stage application review with verbal and written feedback.
- Mock interview with verbal and written feedback for identified teams
- Fiscal sponsor services.
- Calendar of critical trainings and events.
- Monthly newsletter.

Targeted Supports in Year-0 (Post Application Approval through Opening):

- Opening checklist, purchasing calendars, sample contract language, etc.
- Access to the League's online charter school job board.
- Listing your school in the charter directory on the League's website.
- Calendar of critical trainings and events.
- Brokering connections and collaborations.
- Face to face meetings as needed
- ***Onboarding Your New Charter School- A League Training for Newly Approved Schools:**

- Designed to assist newly (and nearly) approved schools in navigating through the complexities of year-0

- Presents a clear path forward to effectively transition your charter application from the theoretical proposal that it currently is into a viable organization. Schools will identify next steps and gain the tools, resources and the understanding necessary to successfully open and operate their school.
- Features: "Meet the League": A League Services Overview, Staff Introduction and Office Hours for Customized, School-Specific Needs.

Targeted Supports in Year-1 (Opening Through End of First Year of Operation):

- Connection point to other League staff/departments.
- Document reviews: board agendas and minutes, financial transparency posts, etc.
- Model documents.
- Calendar of critical trainings and events: governance, finance, MSST, data teams, UIP, SPF, assessments, etc.
- Critical connections: administrator, board and business manager cohorts, etc.
- Readiness checklist review (see survey below).
- ****Year-1 Spring Visit--The Culmination of the League's Targeted New School Supports:** At the end of year-1, League staff will schedule a visit to your school to conduct a friendly review of critical documents, observe classes and meet with school leadership, teachers, parents, students and board members. Verbal and written feedback will be provided following the visit. For recipients of the CSP grant, this visit will help prepare for the required site visit (if in year 2 of the grant) or the extensive CSSI visit in the following year. The League's year-one spring visit was developed to closely align with the CSSI visit which was created to ensure that schools set a course for self-improvement in the early years. The year-one spring visit is a valuable process to undergo whether or not you are a CSP grant recipient.
- **[The "I Don't Have Time For This Survey" survey for Year-1 Schools:](#)**
We know that you are busy, but this survey is actually your friend! This is where we ask you to trust us. Many schools in their first year miss some of the critical pieces that are addressed herein and this is our way of making sure they are on your radar. Also, the answers to this survey will help inform our spring visit and prepare you for the CSSI visit. Please make sure that a Head of School (or Academic Leader), Business Manager and Board President completes this survey. We definitely want the input from folks who are serving in each of these positions. Each school that fills out the survey will have access to their individual report of the survey findings and can use that as a tool to keep track of their progress.

*Information about the Onboarding Your Charter School training will be announced soon for schools approved to open in 2017.

** Year-1 spring visits are, of course, voluntary but are strongly recommended and we will reach out to schools in February to set them up.

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. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate! Remember you

can always access archived webinars [here](#).

New Recorded Webinars:

Revising Your Application Based on Feedback

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 to develop a quality charter application. Developers will hear from Kathy Zlomke, Program Manager of New School Development, as well as a successful charter applicant whose application was originally denied. This team re-grouped, 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 with distinction the second year they submitted their application.

Link to recorded webinar coming soon.

Developing a Facilities Team

This webinar will explain who should be on a school's Facilities Team, what their typical responsibilities and obligations are, how the school can best utilize this team, the skills that are needed and the typical time commitment needed. Developers will learn critical information they can then use to establish an effective Facilities Team.

Link to recorded webinar coming soon.

Live Webinars:

February 2, 2016 –

(New) Contracting with Outside Education Service Providers

March 1, 2016 –

Overview of Relevant Education Laws

April 5, 2016 –

Negotiating a Charter Contract

May 3, 2016 –

Writing SMART Goals

Recent New School webinars you might 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](#)

[Developing a Performance Management \(PM\) Strategy](#)

And stay tuned for our comprehensive, new Facilities Webinar Series!

Resource of the Month

IMPORTANT REMINDER: 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](#) to schedule your review (303-989-5356, ext. 104). [Click here to download a Stage 5 Planning Grant Application.](#)

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.

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.

[Click here for the agenda](#).

Save the Date for Future Business Manager Network Meetings:

Friday, March 11

Friday, May 13

Administrator Mentoring Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado Department of Education Schools of Choice Unit

Date: Tuesday, January 12

Time: 8:30 AM - 1:45 PM

Location: Rocky Mountain Classical Academy, 4620 Antelope Ridge Drive, Colorado Springs

Meals: Coffee and Lunch provided

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. The AMC is also fully accredited as a charter school principal induction program where charter school leaders with their initial principal license can be recommended for professional licensure.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** January 8 at 8:00 AM.

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.

[Click here to view the meeting agenda](#).

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.

Specialty 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 per 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.

CCSP Grant Budget Workshop

Hosted by Colorado Department of Education

Date: Friday, January 22

Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Colorado Department of Education, State Board Room, 201 E Colfax Avenue, Denver

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Register by 8:00 AM on January 20.

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.

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

Montessori Applied to Children at Risk

A Seminar offered by the Shelton School, Dallas, TX

Hosted by Compass Montessori School Wheat Ridge/Golden

Date: Friday, February 5 - Sunday, February 7

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Friday & Saturday; 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Sunday

Location: Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood

Cost: \$400 includes light breakfast, light snacks, and lunch

Description: MACAR - The goal of this workshop is to understand the specific needs of children diagnosed with Learning Differences and provide specific strategies to the registrant for matching the Montessori educational method to those needs.

Topics Include:

- An Overview of Learning Differences at All Ages
- Understanding The Child Who Is At-Risk for Learning Differences
- Applications of the Montessori Method And Techniques
- Practical Life, Sensorial, and Mathematics for the At-Risk Child
- Oral and Written Language Program

- Social Skills Development

Registration: [Click here 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.](#)

Report-Building Tools in PowerSchool

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, February 12

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

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

Note: Please note that lunch is not provided but time is allotted and there are many options within walking distance.

Audience: Geared toward those who create standardized forms and letters for their schools

Description: The three basic PowerSchool report-building tools (Form Letter, Report Card, or Object Report) can be used to create unlimited customized forms such as labels, class lists, report cards, progress reports, certificates, enrollment forms, etc. This hands-on workshop will help you decide which tool is the best choice for various needs, and then walk you through the basic features and functions of each. Participants will create reports using each tool. (Please note: we will not cover ReportWorks in this workshop.)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, February 8, 2016. Event contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

Waldorf Education: Principles, Practices, and Innovation

Hosted by Mountain Phoenix Community School

Date: Wednesday, February 17 - Friday, February 19

Location: Mountain Phoenix Community School, 4725 Miller Street, Wheat Ridge

Description: The task of bringing Waldorf Education to children has two sides: on the one hand are the abiding principles that make Waldorf what it is, that make "Waldorf" a meaningful term. On the other hand, there are continually changing, specific circumstances that create a context for these principles. In this conference, we will look at the tension between the abiding principles and the specific circumstances, and how a truly creative education can arise out of conscious engagement with both poles.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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 gathering of the Colorado charter school community. There are over 60 breakout sessions including a Kick-Off Workshop designed specifically for new school developers.

The conference sessions cover a wide range of charter related topics - school leadership, teacher effectiveness, governance, finance, human resources, legal issues, facilities, and more.

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

PLANNING GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR NEW SCHOOL DEVELOPERS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE! Contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) immediately if you are interested.

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

Visit www.cocharterconference.org 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!

Colorado League of Charter Schools, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,
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