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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

July 2015



Welcome

Dear New School Developers,

The decision to start a charter school is a monumental one. It 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 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 skill set. 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 build a solid foundation with a high likelihood of success.

Please feel free to contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) and [Kathy Zlomke](#) at the Colorado League of Charter Schools for answers to questions, access to sample documents or other resources that you are looking for as you develop your school.

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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Contact Us

Colorado League of Charter Schools
New Schools Office
[Lori Ventimiglia](#)
[Kathy Zlomke](#)
303-989-5356

[New School](#)

Lori Ventimiglia, Director, New School Development
Colorado League of Charter Schools
303-989-5356 x113
lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org

[Resources and Links](#)
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Kathy Zlomke, Program Manager, New School Development
Colorado League of Charter Schools
303-989-5356 x104
kzломke@coloradoleague.org

Six Quality Outcomes for New Schools

Over the 20+ years of supporting charter schools across the state, it has become clear that having the following six [Quality Outcomes for New Schools](#) firmly in place signals that your school has launched successfully and has the solid foundation necessary to be high-quality and sustainable:

1. Qualified and Competent School Leadership
2. Sound Operational Practices
3. Functional Governing Board
4. Effective Academics and Instruction
5. Robust Performance Management Plan
6. Clear, Mission-Driven School Culture

All of the Colorado League of Charter Schools' [new school supports and services](#) are designed with these Quality Outcomes in mind.

Planning Grants Update

Planning grants for new school developing groups in the Denver/Metro area have been depleted. We are working on a new grant request to replenish these funds. If you are developing a school in Boulder, Douglas County, Jefferson County, Denver or any of the Adams counties please check our [website](#) or email [Lori Ventimiglia](mailto:Lori.Ventimiglia) before writing a grant application.

*Planning grant funds are **still available** for groups developing schools outside of the counties listed above.*

New School Spotlight

REACH Charter School

Each month we spotlight a new school from the Class of 2015.

REACH Charter School is opening in the Congress Park neighborhood in Denver this fall.

REACH Charter School, a PK-5th grade elementary school of excellence, offers a personalized instruction model specially designed for every student. Each student will have an individually designed learning plan with goals for each semester. Parents and teachers will work together to create the learning plans to suit each child.

REACH offers small groups for core instruction, interactive computer technology and teacher planning using Universal Design for Learning enabling teachers to create truly personalized learning experiences.

Excellent teachers are the heart of any school. REACH will have three teachers for every two classrooms. Teachers will be co-planning and co-teaching to support every learner. All teachers will be participating in strong professional development in partnership with University of Colorado, Denver including training in working with gifted learners. REACH will have a readers and writer's workshop model for language arts, Singapore Math, and project-based learning in science and social studies. REACH offers music and art classes as part of the school day.



REACH Charter School

To learn more about REACH Charter School, visit www.reachpk5.org.

Welcome Newly Approved Schools

We would like to congratulate and formally welcome the newest round of approved schools to the charter community! The following schools applied to their authorizer this spring and recently became one step closer to opening their doors:

- John Adams High School (Douglas County School District)
- Mountain Village Charter School (Steamboat Springs/CSI)
- The Juniper School (Durango School District)
- Parker Performing Arts School (Douglas County School District)

Developing Schools Resource of the Month

Colorado Charter Schools Standard Application Guidebook and Review Rubric-DRAFT

Over the past year, the League has been working in collaboration with the CDE Schools of Choice Office to update and revise the Colorado Charter School Sample Application Guidebook and Rubric (last published in 2011). This tool is often used by authorizers as a guide for approving new charter schools. The updated draft reflects changes in statute and best practice and includes the full version of the League's [Quality Standards for Developing New Schools](#).

[Click here to view a draft of this revised tool.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: As of this writing, this document is still in draft form awaiting final comments. While it can be used to guide application writing and reviewing it is not the final publication. Also, always check with your authorizer to determine what application writing guidance they offer to developing groups.

Resources

Hiring Resources

If you are a newly approved school you are gearing up to hop into the hiring game! The following two resources should help you in developing

your hiring plan.

Don't forget to post your [job openings on the League's website](#) -- a free resource for new school developers and schools that are members of the League. If you don't have a user ID and password to access the League's website, contact [Stacy Rader](#) to get started.

- [Attracting and Retaining Top Talent For Schools](#)
- [Employment Issues and Hiring a School Leader - Recorded Webinar](#)

Recordings of Recent Technical Assistance and Professional Development

As schools and governing boards consider their summer professional development schedules, we wanted to make available recordings from recent trainings sponsored by the CDE Schools of Choice office and the Colorado Charter Schools Program. These are all free, online resources.

April 2015 - [Board Continuing Development Webinar](#)

- Board Financial Management: Treasurer's Role & Finance Committee Tips
- Professional Development Resources for Boards
- Culture & Climate Surveys - Gathering Feedback from Parents & Staff
- League Legislative Update

January 2015 - [Board Continuing Development Webinar](#)

- Changes to the 2015 Charter Waiver Request Process
- Weighting Lotteries for Educationally Disadvantaged Students
- Healthy Financial Oversight
- Charter School Leadership Landscape (org structures, recruiting school leaders, administrative compensation)

November 2014 -- [Educator Effectiveness: The State Model Evaluation System](#)

A one-day CDE training for charter school teachers and their evaluators that focuses on both halves of the evaluation system, professional practice and measures of student learning. Much attention will be paid to the implementation flexibility provided to charter schools.

November 2014 - [Board Continuing Development Webinar](#)

- Roles and Activities of School Accountability Committees
- Board's Role in Unified Improvement Planning
- Communications Tools about State Assessments and Colorado Academic Standards

May 2014 - [Board Continuing Development Webinar Legislative Update](#)

- School Accountability Committees
- New Standards & Assessments
- Next Generation Learning: Innovation & Personalized Learning Trends

Deals and Discounts

Order Furniture and Receive a Rewards Coupon from Hertz!

Is your school purchasing furniture this year? Take advantage of discounts up to 70 percent off, free standard ground shipping and other charter-specific benefits from Hertz Furniture, a [League Endorsed Partner](#). When you purchase, you qualify for a Rewards Coupon for your next order.

*New Schools can use their coupon for their current order!

If the order size is:	Will receive a rewards coupon for:
\$25,000 - \$50,000	\$200.00
\$50,000 - \$100,000	\$400.00
\$100,000 - \$150,000	\$600.00
\$150,000 - \$200,000	\$800.00
\$200,000+	\$1000.00

To start purchasing furniture today, contact Shane Ronay, Regional Sales Manager, Hertz Furniture at 888-286-3461 x1247 or shane@hertzfurniture.com.

Win Tickets to a Rockies Game

Reward yourself or some staff members with fun this summer just by completing your annual due diligence on your copier/document management machines. Simply schedule an audit of your current copier contracts/processes with the [League's Endorsed Partner](#), CBS of Colorado, and you'll be automatically entered into a drawing to receive four tickets to a Rockies game! Two prize packages are available.

And that's not all...**CBS is undergoing major construction at their warehouse and they need to quickly place 75% of their inventory.** Take advantage of the situation and receive major discounts far below the League's contract pricing.

Contact Ben Blackwood 303-467-9080 or bblackwood@cbsofcolorado.com.

Get 10% off Asset Management System by Asset Panda

People all over the world are using [Asset Panda](#) to replace spreadsheets for asset tracking. Asset Panda offers a revolutionary new system that automates and simplifies the job of tracking and managing fixed assets - notably industrial equipment, information technology and office equipment. Many organizations don't know what fixed assets they own, what shape those assets are in, or where they're located. Asset Panda solves that problem quickly and easily. They give organizations control over their assets with their integrated asset management system that combines the use of apps, the cloud and scanning using the mobile devices your employees already carry. View [5 Tips for Selecting an Asset Management System](#) to receive the special promotion code.

Did you Miss it? Rosetta Stone World Language Classroom Licenses: Annual League Offer!

The League's annual group purchasing offer on Rosetta Stone license purchases ended May 31st. However, if you're a new school, you might still be able to get in on the deal: Foundations Silver Program available at \$95/license. Advantage Program available at \$105/license. Professional Development is included. Contact Nick Underwood at nunderwood@rosettastone.com or 480-243-2991.

Will Your HR System be Ready for the First Day of the 2016 School Year? TalentEd is Here to Help!

[Learn More About a Special Offer for Colorado League Members!](#)

TalentED has partnered with the Colorado League of Charter Schools to offer member schools an exclusive, accelerated implementation with a best-practice launch to ensure your positions are filled and onboarding processes are ready before the first day of school.

Professional Development Events

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, July 31

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 | \$100 for each additional attendee

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

Audience: School Leaders, Teachers, Instructional Staff, SPED

Coordinators, etc.

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, July 27.

Safety in Secondary School Science Labs

Supported by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Presented by The Laboratory Safety Institute

Date: Tuesday, August 4

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: STRIVE Prep - Sunnyside, 4735 Pecos Street, Denver

Cost: One person: \$495, 2-4 people: \$420 (Groups of 5 or more contact LSI for special pricing).

Description: Safety in Secondary School Science Labs (SSSSL) is an intensive one-day seminar covering the fundamentals of lab safety and effective lab safety programs. Topics include: scope of the problem, accidents, legal aspects, emergency planning, chemical handling,

chemical storage, biological and animal hazards, eye and face protection, hazardous waste management, electrical safety and safety program planning. Attendees will 1) LEARN how to avoid accidents and injuries with simple, practical low-cost solutions; 2) DISCOVER how easy it is to avoid costly and time consuming litigation associated with negligence suits; and 3) receive the RESOURCES needed to understand the fundamentals of lab safety, to develop or improve your lab safety program, and to comply with the OSHA Lab standard.

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

Federal Programs: Summer Training Offers Opportunity to Improve Grant Writing Skills

Attendees at a grant writing training this summer will learn about CDE's competitive grant processes, hear helpful tips for writing fundable proposals, and complete hands-on exercises to put grant writing skills to use. All representatives from schools and districts are welcome to attend.

Register for this free one-day training in your region by clicking on the event registration links below:

Wednesday, August 19

Southeast Region (Limon)

[Click here to register.](#)

Friday, August 28

West Central Region (Grand Junction)

[Click here to register.](#)

Additional information and resources will be sent via email one week prior to these events.

For More Information, Contact:

Anna Young

Federal Programs

Phone: 303-866-6250

Email: young_a@cde.state.co.us

4th Annual Colorado NWEA MAP Users Conference

Presented by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, October 23

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

Cost: Early Bird Rate - \$175 per person | Regular rate - \$225 per person - Early bird ends September 26.

Audience: Principals, teachers, counselors

Description: Join MAP users from all over the state for this one-of-a-kind user event. The conference will feature multiple breakout sessions in a variety of topics designed for advanced, intermediate and beginner users.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) Early bird rates end September 9.

Groups of 3 or more use the discount code NWEAGROUP for \$20 off per person.

6th Annual Colorado PowerSchool Users Conference (PSUG)

Presented by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 21 - Friday, January 22

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Denver (exact location TBD)

Cost: Early Bird Rate - One day - \$175 | Two days - \$200 Early bird ends November 30

Regular Registration Rate - One day - \$200 per person | Two Days - \$225 per person

Description: The Colorado PowerSchool User's 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: Coming Soon

*A group discount is available for schools that have 3+ participants.

2016 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

Presented by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, February 25 - Saturday, February 27

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

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.

Registration: Registration will open in fall 2015.

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.

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/chartregstart>.

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 online](#). See RFP for eligibility rules and application instructions.

In Every Issue

The following links are included in each month's 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 or 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

The "Start a School" section of the League's website offers a variety of resources, sample model documents, upcoming events, information about grants and much more. Visit www.coloradoleague.org and go to "Start a School."

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. [Click here for more information.](#) [Click here for a calendar of upcoming trainings and events.](#)

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Colorado League of Charter Schools | 2696 S. Colorado Blvd. | Suite 250 | Denver | CO | 80222