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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

July 2017



Welcome

The decision to start a charter public 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 3 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 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.

No matter what phase of development you are in; this monthly newsletter will offer you *critical resources*, *helpful tips* and information about important *events and trainings* so that your school can have 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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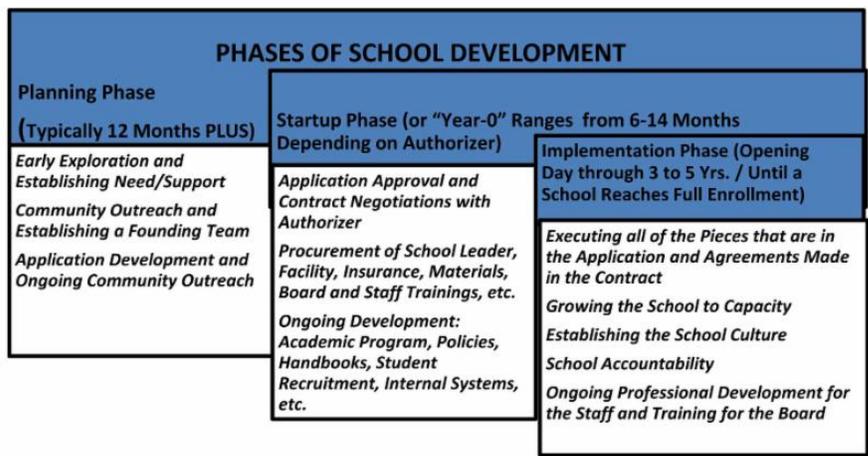
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[New School Resources and Links](#)
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Phases of School Development



Tips for Schools in the Planning Phase

Application Review

If you are planning to submit a charter application to your district this fall, **now** is the time to schedule an application review. Our extensive two-part application review process should begin eight weeks prior to your district/authorizer application deadline. [Stage 5 Planning Grants](#) are available to cover the costs of the application review. These grants are available for groups that have most of the essential pieces of their charter application in place, including a sound budget, thoughtful academic and performance management plans, and a mission-aligned organizational structure. For questions about the application review process, please reach out to [Kathy Zlomke](#) at your earliest convenience.

Hire a Consultant!

We understand that founding groups don't always possess all of the skill sets and expertise necessary in charter school development. Charter school law and finance, for example, are areas where founding groups typically require the assistance from experienced professionals. Additionally, the development of the academic program is sometimes an area where founders seek the input and guidance from paid consultants.

The New School Development office at the League has a list of consultants who have been working in the Colorado charter school space for many years. Please contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) or [Kathy Zlomke](#) for these lists. Please note - the League has not vetted these consultants beyond their relationships with current charter schools. Therefore, we always recommend that developing groups perform due diligence in contacting more than one of the consultants, in a given area, and asking for costs, expected deliverables, and references before determining it a fit with your school or entering into any contracts with unfamiliar vendors.

Planning Phase Teams - Save the Date

Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) Grant and Application Training

This is a required training for groups interested in applying this fall for the CCSP grant.

Date: Wednesday, August 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Community First Foundation, 5855 Wadsworth Bypass, Unit A, Arvada

Description: A required training for Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) Start-up grant applicants that takes place 6-8 weeks before the grant application is due. CDE highly recommends that two or more individuals from each applicant charter school attend this training.

Registration: [Coming soon](#).

Tips for Schools in the Startup Phase

New Menu of Special Education Consulting Services

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has created a new menu of Special Education and Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) consulting services. [Click here to view the menu](#) and see how your school can take advantage of these offerings. For more information, contact [Nicole Grzybowski](#).

Hiring Resources

If you are a newly approved school, you are gearing up for the hiring game! The following two resources should assist you in developing your hiring plan.

- [Employment Issues and Hiring a School Leader - Recorded Webinar](#)
- [Employment and Hiring Resources](#)

Don't forget to post your school's job openings [here](#) on the Colorado League of Charter Schools' Career Center! It's 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, please contact [Jeff Johnson](#) to get started.

Charter Contract Resources

As you prepare for contract negotiations with your authorizer, the resources below will provide guidance for both you and your authorizer in writing effective charter school contracts. Because the charter contract is the foundational agreement that establishes a charter school's autonomy and accountability and the district's rights and obligations, it is essential that the contract meet legal requirements and adhere to best practices. The Sample Contract Language and Attachments articulates the rights and responsibilities of both parties.

- [Colorado Charter School: A Resource for Developing Charter School Contracts and its companion](#)
- [Colorado Charter School: Sample Contract Language and Attachments](#)

Website Development Tip

There has been much focus in Colorado around school website accessibility. If you are a developing charter school and beginning to create your website, you will want to make sure that it is ADA compliant - ensuring all families, regardless of disability, access to the information they need. If hiring an outside web developer -- be sure to ask them if they have experience creating ADA compliant websites.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this topic by reading this article from EdWeek titled - *Website Accessibility: Ten Things School Districts Should Know*.

Save The Date For Startup Phase Teams

Instructional Coaching Practices

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 8

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 and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: This workshop will focus on two instructional coaching practices: 1) Observation/Feedback Cycles, and 2) Data Review Meetings. Participants will:

- Learn and apply an observation/feedback protocol called the 6 Steps for Effective Feedback.
- Determine what to coach along with how to coach by digging into the management and rigor trajectories for new teachers.
- Master and apply a simple protocol for engaging in 1:1 data meetings that harness the standard-based teaching and learning cycle.
- Learn about tools and resources for ensuring accountability loops and tracking teacher growth.

References:

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Leverage Leadership: A Practical Guide to Building Exceptional Schools, 2012.

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Get Better Faster: A 90 Day Plan for Coaching New Teachers, 2016.

Doug Lemov, Practice Perfect: 42 Rules for Getting Better and Getting Better, 2012.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 6.

Legal Seminar - Friday, October 27

Save the Date!

[Charter School Law Institute](#) will be hosting a one-day, in-depth legal seminar on emerging federal and state civil rights issues. Through a combination of lectures and small-group breakout sessions led by local and national experienced legal counsel, attendees will:

- examine how to navigate immigration issues facing students and schools;
- learn how the US Supreme Court is raising expectations for public schools serving special education students;
- discuss how to prevent race discrimination, including unintentional and unconscious bias;
- review state and federal laws regarding LGBT students;
- and address issues specific to school discipline, bullying, harassment and sexual violence.

Together, participants will tackle the most cutting edge legal questions facing charter schools across the country. As an attendee, you will leave with concrete, practical strategies and tips on how to ensure you are in compliance of all related legal requirements and effectively serving all students.

Registration: [Coming soon](#).

In Every Issue

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

New School Development Resources

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

Health and Wellness Resources

<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/resources/healthy-schools-best-practices-guides/>

<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/resources/connecting-health-and-learning-health-is-vital-to-student-success-an-overview-of-relevant-research/>

<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MakingtheCaseFF.pdf>

School Safety

<http://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/safeschools/E-Updates/CSSRC-E-UpdateJuly2017.pdf>

Community Presentation Resources

- Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJNqgDobfoI0Qf3t78oVMcQ>
- FACTS: <http://coloradoleague.org/?charterschoolfacts>
- Infographics: <http://coloradoleague.org/?infographics>
- Website: <http://www.charterpublic.org/>
(Great for messaging your charter school)!

Information from CDE Schools of Choice Office

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/chartregstart.asp> - This is the events page for the Schools of Choice unit at CDE. This site should also be checked frequently as there are always important and relevant workshops and seminars for developing schools that CDE Schools of Choice offers.

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>

Mark Your Calendar

Whether you are in the planning phase, have been approved or are a Year-One school, there are critical professional development opportunities listed below. If you are unclear as to whether or not you should attend a training listed below, please contact the League's [New School Development department](#). Please continue to check the [League Calendar](#) for upcoming trainings.

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, August 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 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: In this professional development session, participants will create a product called the "Data Team Action Plan" as an end outcome. Through various readings, use of research-based resources and explicit modeling, participants will build background knowledge about data team structures. The "Data Team Action Plan" will be written as a data teams implementation plan to support data teams over time in your school as well as engage in intervention based instructional strategies that will support data teams next steps.

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, July 31.

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 4

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 and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: 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 including:

- Data collection tools
- Behavior change monitoring tools
- Strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS
- Social emotional learning intervention programs
- Sample MTSS structures for behavior/social emotional learning

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, August 2.

Restorative Practices Workshop

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Thursday, August 10 - Friday, August 11

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

Location: Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling Street, Wheat Ridge

Description: Day one of this workshop will provide a philosophical overview of restorative practices in schools and the rationale as to why this will help with discipline issues, positive school climate, data tracking and aligning your RTI/PBIS programs. Designed particularly for administrators. Day two of the workshop will focus on communication skills, restorative practices and practical strategies that can be used immediately by teachers, counselors, security and administrative staff that want to improve relationships, behavior, and reduce discipline incidents in the classroom and hallways. This interactive workshop presents a spectrum of restorative techniques, offers implementation ideas, and explains how the process works. Designed for teachers and others who will be implementing restorative practices in their schools.

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

Specialty Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, August 11

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 and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processes of reading. Participants will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle that includes:

- Collecting various screeners that assess the different processes of reading.
- Plotting and analyzing screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Triangulating data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Prioritizing instruction through a problem solving process.
- Implementing prioritized instruction and progress monitoring goals/objectives.
- Reviewing progress monitoring and adjusting 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:** Wednesday, August 9.

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, August 17

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

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

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 instructional strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners; something you will also be able to experience as a participant.

Participants will learn:

- The key elements of an effective English Language Development Plan;
- The basics of WIDA standards and how to incorporate them into your daily learning objectives;

- Instructional research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your classroom.

Audience: ELA teachers, ELD teachers, ELD Coordinators, Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Interventionists

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

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