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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](mailto: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

### March 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!

Lori Ventimiglia, Director, New School Development  
Colorado League of Charter Schools  
303-989-5356, ext. 113  
[lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org](mailto:lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org)

#### Table of Contents

[Welcome](#)

[Phases of School Development](#)

[Planning Phase: Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Tips for Planning Phase](#)

[Startup Phase: Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Tips for Startup Phase](#)

[In Every Issue](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

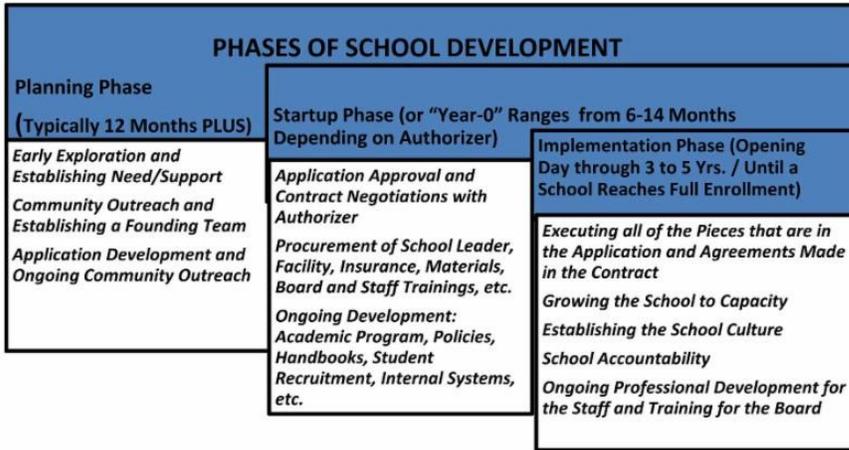
#### Contact Us

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[New School Resources and Links](#)  
[Planning Grant Information and Links](#)

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## Phases of School Development



## Planning Phase: Mark Your Calendar

### Charter School Boot Camp

*Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice and the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, April 5, Thursday, April 6, and Friday, April 7

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

**Location:** Independence Institute, 727 E. 16th Avenue, Denver

**Cost:** \$100 per attendee (cost includes all three days)

**Description:** The grand bargain for charter public schools is accountability in exchange for autonomy. If charter planning teams are going to open and operate a quality school that is accountable to their stakeholders and has the autonomy to self-govern, they have to understand the critical elements of starting a charter school well before they receive a charter or apply for the CCSP (Colorado Charter School Program) grant.

This training is designed to support planning teams, at all stages of application writing, in gaining a clear picture of the realities of opening and operating a school, as well as, to support teams in finding the gaps within their plan and team. This three-day workshop looks at essential aspects of developing a charter school application, calling on expert presenters and providing supplemental resources to assist the charter school development team. Planning teams will leave the training with information, strategies and resources necessary to develop a strong application that will ultimately lay the foundation for a quality charter school.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, April 3.

## Tips for Planning Phase

### Characteristics of Highly Effective Charter School Founding Committees:

- Have a main founder (sometimes two) who has strong project management and organization skills.
- Sign an agreed upon set of norms for committee functioning.
- Skills in project management, education, management, P.R., finance and law.
- Were chosen based on particular expertise or skills that they are prepared to utilize on behalf of the charter school; skillsets among members are diverse.
- Are Colorado residents and ideally the majority live and/or work in the proposed community the school plans to serve.
- Have the time to devote a considerable amount of energy to the creation of the charter application and the launching of a new school.
- 1/2 to 2/3 of committee has previous governance experience.
- Utilize written job descriptions and/or performance expectations for individual members.
- Agree to transition to the formal Governing Board after charter is approved.

## Startup Phase: Mark Your Calendar

### 9th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair

*Hosted by The Center for Professional Development at Peak to Peak Charter School*

**Date:** Saturday, March 18

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

**Description:** This is the largest 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 come from Colorado and surrounding states. Over 50 charter schools and 400 teacher candidates attend this annual event. [Click here to learn more.](#)

For more information, please contact Jen Dauzvardis at [jen@CPDcolorado.org](mailto:jen@CPDcolorado.org) with questions or to be added to their general mailing list.

### Lotus School for Excellence Education Job Fair

*Hosted by Lotus School for Excellence*

**Date:** Saturday, April 8

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Lotus School for Excellence, 11001 E. Alameda Avenue, Aurora

**Description:** Discover your future educators with the LSE Education Job Fair on April 8 in Aurora. With the capabilities to interview on site, gather resumes from many candidates and network with schools across the state and beyond, this is a job fair you do not want to miss!

**Registration:** Registration is required. For more information and to register, [click here.](#)

## Tips for Startup Phase

### Customized Governance Training

*If your school is approved to open in 2017 don't forget to get your*

*Customized Governance Training scheduled. We recommend that this training occurs shortly after you have your Head of School hired so that the Board and School Leader can begin their relationship with a shared understanding of best practices in charter school governance.*

The Colorado League of Charter Schools offers customized governance trainings designed to meet a school's unique needs around board development. Workshops are held at your charter school or location of your choosing and facilitated by a member of our cadre of experienced charter school professionals

League trainings generally focus on specific themes but all workshops are customized via a pre-session survey and conference call to determine your school's unique needs, goals and key issues. The **Best Practices in Charter School Governance training** introduces basic roles, responsibilities and general practices essential to creating and/or operating an effective charter school board.

If using the League for your Customized Governance Training, please contact Joni Malli, the League's School Support Manager, for scheduling and more information. Also, [Planning Grants](#) may be available for your Governance Training. Please check with [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to determine eligibility. Half day and full day trainings are available.

## 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>

### **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.**

### **Foundations of Empowered Teacher Leadership**

*Hosted by Cooperative Community Schools*

**Date:** Saturday, March 11

**Time:** 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Green Valley Ranch Library, 4856 Andes Court, Denver

**Cost:** Free

**Audience:** Northeast Denver Educators

**Note:** Refreshments will be served and childcare will be provided.

**Description:** Come to this workshop for inspiring, interactive, powerful learning around teacher-powered structures. Attendees will leave with tangible ideas to put into practice at their school and knowledge on how to keep students at the center of all your decision-making! Roya Brown, Executive Director of Cooperative Community Schools and Deborah L. Sims-Fard, Executive Director of Justina Ford STEM Institute, are the workshop facilitators and a panel of experts on teacher leadership will be present.

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

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## **Webinar Series: The School Safety Plan Step 6 (Webinar 5 of 5)**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, March 24

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** The Safe Schools Act for Colorado can be read in C.R.S. 22-32-109.1: <http://schoolsafetysummit.org/safe-schools/> The Act requires all schools, including charter public schools, to adopt and implement a safe school plan. This School Safety Plan webinar series focuses on subsection (4) of the Act and will lead each participating charter public school through a step-by-step process to build and complete their school-specific plan by June 30, 2017. This webinar series (5 webinars) will help schools establish a school response framework consisting of policies described in subsection (4) of the Act. By satisfying the requirements of subsection (4), a school shall be in compliance with the national incident management system, referred to in this subsection (4) as "NIMS", developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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

## **Lunch & Learn: Increase Your College Student Stats with these Pros**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Cost:** Free

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

**Description:** Get your students successfully into college with the power of these 3 innovative tools:

Story2College: Help students conquer college admission essays all in one place.

Brigit2College: Move students from acceptance to enrollment with this interactive roadmap.

Mountain Financial: Show students how to afford/pay for the college of their choice.

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

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

## Charter School Advocacy Day

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, April 13

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Wells Fargo Center, 1700 Lincoln Street, Denver & Colorado State Capitol Building

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** Join us for Charter School Advocacy Day on Thursday, April 13 from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM in Denver. Attend this event to learn about the Colorado legislative process, garner helpful tips about effective advocacy, understand current education bills with impacts on charter schools, visit and tour the State Capitol, meet elected officials and share your story about the importance of charter public schools.

In addition to parents and other charter advocates, we encourage staff and students to get involved in this day, too! After all, who makes a better advocate than the students currently attending charter public schools? We encourage middle school and high school teachers and a small group (we encourage 6-8, 10 maximum) of their students to participate. Travel subsidies are available on a first-come, first-served basis! Questions? Contact Dan Schaller at [dschaller@coloradoleague.org](mailto:dschaller@coloradoleague.org).

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, March 17.

## Charter School Teacher Summit

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, May 5

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**Location:** Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

**Cost:** Early Bird (ends April 3) League Members and New School Developers: \$150 per person | Non-Members: \$175 per person.

**Target Audience:** Teachers, Educators, Paraprofessionals, Teacher

## Assistants

**Description:** During the Summit, attendees will actively engage in a variety of instructional and academic topics that are unique to all teachers including paraprofessionals, aides, and academic support staff.

- Select from a variety of topics that you'd like to explore during the event.
- Share your expertise, exchange ideas and learn new concepts/strategies.
- Network and build relationships with other educators while learning from educational experts in the field.

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

## Charter Communicators Network Meeting

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, May 8

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Location:** Banning Lewis Ranch Academy, 7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs

**Cost:** League Members: \$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: Thursday, May 4.

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

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