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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

May 2014



Welcome

New school developers at every stage of starting a school 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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Planning Grant Updates

Planning Grant Updates

Denver Metro Area (Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Denver, Jeffco and Englewood) Developing Groups: Funds have been depleted for this region. We are working to replenish these funds and will update our website as soon as we know more. If you are in the Denver Metro Area and would like to utilize our two-part Application Review process (which typically requires a Stage Five grant); please contact Lori Ventimiglia at lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org to discuss your options.

Developing Groups Outside the Metro Area:

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Contact Us

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Funds for groups who are outside of the Denver Metro Area are **almost depleted** and are currently being reserved for Stage 5 (Application Review) grants only.

Please visit our [website](#) to access the guidelines and applications, and be sure to contact the League's [New School Development](#) department to determine eligibility as fund availability and grant requirements change often.

Charter Application Review

Extensive Two-Part Application Review

If you are planning to submit an application to your district/authorizer in the fall of 2014, we strongly encourage you to utilize the League's Application Review. This two-part process provides in-depth feedback on your charter application before you submit it to your district/authorizer.

The review must be scheduled to begin at least eight weeks prior to your district/authorizer application deadline so make sure to plan ahead! Please contact the League's [New School Development](#) department to learn more about this service and to schedule your review.

New School Spotlight

Each month we highlight one of the new Colorado charter schools slated to open in the coming year.

Salida Del Sol Academy

K-8 Charter School

Greeley, Colorado

Salida Del Sol Academy (SDSA) is a bilingual charter school opening in Greeley in fall 2014. SDSA is the first school of its kind in the region and will offer a dual language education where Spanish speaking students receive native language instructions in core academic areas, while building their English and Spanish proficiencies.

SDSA will provide education to 600 students, grades K-8, of whom 85% will receive free or reduced cost lunch. Students desiring to be enrolled are not required to be bilingual or monolingual in a specific language, everyone who is interested in Dual Language Education is welcome. The goal is to graduate students completely fluent in both languages; English and Spanish, multicultural aware and test at least 80% proficient.

It is the founding basis, intent and goal that SDSA will accommodate an under served population and provide parental choice. The school will be located in an area where the home language is predominately Spanish. Classes will be limited in size and both- the school day and the school year- will be longer than other schools in the district netting about an extra year in the eight-year education cycle.

SDSA will play an important role in bridging the cultural gap by which Greeley is often bitterly divided and will contribute significantly in producing a globally aware and competent citizenry.

The school building will be ready by mid-August and SDSA's first day of school is September 2. Prior to the opening, SDSA will host a grand opening with food and music. That day parents and students will have the

opportunity to walk around the new campus, meet teachers, faculty staff and Board members.

If you are interested in learning more about Salida Del Sol or bilingual education, please call 970-397-3308 or visit www.salidadelsolacademy.org.

Teacher Induction Program

CDE Approved Teacher Induction Program

The Center for Professional Development at Peak to Peak Charter School is now offering a teacher induction program that has been approved by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). This program is a proven avenue toward increasing teacher mastery and retaining quality teachers, which promotes student academic achievement and improves the overall educational school quality. Initially licensed teachers and counselors who successfully complete the program receive a certificate to submit to the CDE when applying for a professional license. The induction program runs for one full school year.

The cost of induction services varies from school to school and is determined based on variables at each individual institution. Please contact Megan Freeman at megan@cpdcolorado.org for more information and to explore options for your school.

[Click here for more information about the program](#). Space is limited for the 2014-15 Induction Program.

Professional Development Opportunities

Policy to Practice Conference "Intersections in Education"

Hosted by Young Education Professionals (YEP-Colorado)

Date: Saturday, May 31

Time: 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Location: DSST: Stapleton Campus, 2000 Valentia Street, Denver

Cost: \$12. Includes lunch and one drink at happy hour

Description: Join YEP-Colorado for its 1st Policy to Practice Conference to further the mission of breaking barriers between policy, practice, and research among young education professionals. The meeting is co-hosted by the Center for Teaching Quality with partners the Colorado Education Initiative, DSST, and the Global Travel Alliance. Registration is just \$12 for lunch and a keynote by Center for Teaching Quality COO Ann Byrd and CEO Barnett Berry, co-authors of the book *Teacherpreneurs*, two breakout sessions featuring research and practice from some of Colorado's best, and a drink at the design thinking happy hour to cap off the day. The meeting, held at DSST's Stapleton campus, will be the first in an annual conversation about Colorado's schools and school districts, education politics and policy, and the implementation of policy in the classroom.

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

Lunch and Learn: Effective Implementation of Blended Learning and High-Quality Results

Hosted by Colorado eLearning Collaborative

Date: Wednesday, June 4

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools' Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver. Please click [here](#) for directions

Audience: New School Developers & Charter School Administrators

Cost: Free for schools that are members of the Colorado League of Charter Schools and to New School Developers | \$30 per person for non-members. Lunch will be provided.

Description: Attend this interactive Lunch and Learn to:

- Gain a basic understanding of blended learning (definitions of blended learning, personalized learning and mastery based instruction)
- Hear about blended learning implementation models
- Examine evidence of success of blending learning models (nationally and locally)
- Discuss key steps to effectively develop and implement a blended learning program in your school
- Connect with other educators implementing blended learning
- Discuss Colorado based support, such as: digital content repository, consortium pricing on LMS, professional development.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** May 30.

For more information, contact Tiffany Kallevik at tkallevik@coloradoleague.org or 303-989-5356, ext. 116.

Powerful Strategies for Response to Intervention Two Day Workshop

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

This workshop is applicable in both the application writing and the post-approval stages of school development.

If you have received the CSP grant, those funds can be used to reimburse this workshop. Also, CDE would allow schools to submit a TA Request Form to get two credits toward their grant TA Requirements for attending.

Dates: Thursday, June 12 - Friday, June 13

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM each day

Location: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S. Spruce Street, Centennial

Cost: League Members: \$325 for one person or \$425 for two attendees.

Non-Members: \$425 for one person or \$525 for two attendees.

(Grant funds were used to subsidize the cost of this training, which would normally cost \$685/person.)

Audience: New School Developers, School Leaders & Teachers

Registration: Click [here](#) to register. **Deadline:** June 9

Description: Response to Intervention (RTI) is a comprehensive, student-centered assessment and intervention model used to identify and mitigate individual student academic difficulties or challenges.

Attend this workshop to learn how to effectively select intervention strategies aligned with current evidence of student learning through a collaborative model that includes:

- Collecting and analyzing student data
- Setting appropriate goals
- Selecting instructional interventions
- Monitoring student progress
- Deepen your understanding of the principles of RTI and best

- practices as shared through actual case studies
- Learn to select appropriate instructional strategies and interventions and monitor the process with skill and confidence.

Content provided by [The Leadership and Learning Center](#).

Trainer: Rachael Gurian

For more information, contact Joni Malli at jmalli@coloradoleague.org or 303-989-5356, ext. 115.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, June 26

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Audience: New School Developers, Charter School Administrators and I.T. Staff

Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver. Please click [here](#) for directions.

Cost: Free to New School Developers. \$20 per person for schools that are members of the Colorado League of Charter Schools / \$50 person for non-members. Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks will be provided.

Description: These meetings enable charter school technology personnel to regularly network and share best practices with one another. The Colorado League of Charter Schools hosts, facilitates and coordinates these quarterly meetings in an effort to learn about, and then provide, the resources and tools needed by schools to: 1) Develop effective technology plans for their organizations; 2) Develop efficient and cost-effective methods of implementation; and 3) Maximize the performance of their technology in growing student achievement levels.

Registration: Click [here](#) to register. Deadline: June 23.

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

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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