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COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*

## NEW SCHOOL NEWS

### November 2015



#### Welcome

Dear New School Developers,

The decision to start a charter 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 three years to bring a charter 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.

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 garner 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 x113  
[lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org](mailto:lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org)

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#### Contact Us

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

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

## Onboarding Your Charter School

### Time is running out so [Sign Up Now](#) for Onboarding Your Charter School for Approved (or Nearly Approved) Schools

The Onboarding Training is **November 5th and 6th!** If your school is approved to open in 2016 (or you are a 2016 "new school hopeful" with an application awaiting a decision this fall) you won't want to miss this training created specifically for you! Plan on bringing anyone who will be working through year-0 to open your school. [Click here for more details.](#)

## New School Webinar Series

### New School Development Webinar Series

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. Each webinar is held the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, and typically runs from 9:00 AM -10:30 AM or 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MST) as noted. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate!

**Tuesday, November 3 - Charter School Facilities Overview - (first in a new series) 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Tuesday, December 1 - Developing a Performance Management Strategy**

**Tuesday, January 5 - Revising Your Application Based on Feedback (new)**

**Tuesday, February 2 - Contracting with Outside Education Service Providers (new)**

**Tuesday, March 1 - Overview of Relevant Education Laws**

**Tuesday, April 5 - Negotiating a Charter Contract**

**Tuesday, May 3 - Writing SMART Goals**

[Click here](#) if you missed the August webinar "What you Need to Know About the State Assessment Transition, Accountability Timeline and the UIP for the 2015-16 School Year." Also, [click here to view our archived webinars.](#)

## Planning Grants Update

### Planning Grants

The process of developing a school is a mammoth undertaking and best accomplished when taken in steps. These steps should be progressive and build on one another in a natural progression. The Planning Grants that the League offers to assist groups in developing their charter application and school have been designed with this in mind, giving the

groups who are awarded these grants not only the monetary assistance they so desperately need but also the benefit of utilizing a thoughtful and sequential design process. [Click here for more information](#) on League Planning Grants and the suggested sequence of school development.



Planning Grants are made possible through the generous contributions of the Anschutz Foundation and the Daniels Fund. New School teams interested in applying for a planning grant should contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to learn about the process and determine eligibility.

## Resources of the Month

### Developing Schools Resource of the Month:

[Charter School Start Up Plan: Phases 0 - 2](#). This resource addresses charter schools at their very earliest stage of development and all the way through application submission. The Phase 0-2 Start-Up Plan guides developing groups to navigate the vast, complex tasks and activities involved in developing a charter school and is structured so that groups can see the ideal timing of each task and keep track of who is responsible for each activity.

### Post Approval: Resource of the Month

[Charter School Start Up Plan: Phase 3](#). This resource guides newly approved charter schools through the variety of tasks that are involved in the actual implementation of your charter school. From hiring a Head of School to purchasing equipment this start up plan will help you understand the steps involved in turning the charter application into a charter school.

## 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.

## Administrator Mentoring Cohort

*Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Unit*

**Date:** Tuesday, November 3

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 1:45 PM

**Meals:** Coffee and Lunch

**Location:** Downtown Denver Expeditionary School, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver

**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.](#)

## Onboarding Your Charter School

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Thursday, November 5 - Friday, November 6

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

**Cost:** Special new school pricing! \$150 per person. Groups of 3 or more use promo code GROUP40 at checkout for \$40 off each ticket. **You may be eligible for a planning grant to cover this cost, contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) right away.**

**Note:** Includes light breakfast and lunch both days

**Location:** Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool at 6857 South Spruce Street, Centennial, CO 80112

**Audience:** 2016 Cohort of new schools (schools that are approved to open in 2016 or have applications under consideration for a 2016 opening). Anyone who will be working on opening the school should attend; including board members, Head of School (if hired) and Business Manager (if hired).

**Description:** In order to effectively transition your charter application from a theoretical proposal to a viable organization, schools need to identify next steps and understand how to implement them across the following critical areas of school start-up:

- Qualified and Competent Leadership
- Sound Operational Practices
- Functional Governing Boards
- Effective Academics and Instruction
- Robust Performance Management Plan
- Clear, Mission-Driven School Culture

League staff and experienced school founders, board members and

school leaders will facilitate this training with team work-sessions planned throughout so participants can leave with tangible pieces and plans in place.

With a networking lunch, opportunities to meet with trusted vendors and a special **"Meet the League"** session where you will hear from everyone on staff and learn how your school will be supported by the League moving forward. You won't want to miss this training!

**Registration:** [Click here](#). **Deadline:** October 30. Space is limited - register now!

**Contact:** Lori Ventimiglia at 303-989-5356, ext. 113 with questions.

## 2015 Green Schools Summit

*Presented by the U.S. Green Building Council Colorado*

**Date/Times:** Workshops: Thursday, November 5th: 1:00 PM - 4 PM

Conference: Friday, November 6th: 7:30 AM - 4:15 PM

Closing Reception/Happy Hour 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM

**Location:** The Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003

**Description:** The Green Schools Summit provides a unique opportunity for open dialogue between K-12 stakeholders, policy makers, and green building industry professionals. This year's theme is Schools in Balance and the keynote features Heather Tallis, Acting Chief Scientist at the Nature Conservancy and author of the study, "Naturally Smarter Schools: The

Connection Between Nature Views and Elementary School Student Test Scores," and Greg Dekker, Director of Workplace Strategy at Teknion. Get inspired to green ALL schools in Colorado within this generation at this year's Green Schools Summit.

**Registration:** [Click here](#). To schedule an interview or to be added to the press list, please contact Shawna McGregor at [Shawna@rosengrouppr.com](mailto:Shawna@rosengrouppr.com) or 917-971-7852.

## 8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, November 9

**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 first attendee. | Non-Members: \$250 for first attendee. Additional attendees: \$100 per person.

**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](#). **Deadline:** November 4.

## Become a Data Geek & Fall in Love with Excel!

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, November 11

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$175 for one person, \$100 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$225 for one person, \$100 per additional attendee. Lunch will be provided.

**Description:** Excel is an amazing program and can be a valuable tool for teachers and administrators. Attend this full day workshop and discover how Excel can help you organize and interpret your data to make your job easier. Learn how to work smarter not harder and walk away with increased knowledge and some helpful tips and tricks for all levels of users.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand some basic Excel features, like sorting, filtering conditional formatting, find and replace
- More advanced topics such as pivot tables, formulas such as "If" Statements and vlookup will be shared.

**Presenter:** Corey McAfee, Consultant and former Director of Assessment, New America Schools

**Audience:** School Leaders, Teachers, Assessment

**RECOMMENDED:** Bring your laptop to follow along and interact!

**Registration:** [Click here](#). **Deadline:** November 9.

This event is contingent on a minimum of 10 attendees.

## **Lunch & Learn: Integrating STEAM into the 21st Century Classroom**

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and Space Foundation*

Date: Wednesday, November 11

Time: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Space Foundation, 4425 Arrowswest Drive, Colorado Springs

**Cost:** League Members and New School Developers: Free; Non-members: \$25

**Description:** This Lunch and Learn will bring you to Colorado Springs and the only dedicated space museum in the state. Once here, we will discuss what the 21st Century classroom looks like by integrating the Arts into STEM curriculum. You will, then, be led by the Space Foundation's Space Education Specialists (all former classroom teachers) in a STEAM-centered project to see how easy it is to integrate cross-curricular lessons into the classroom.

**Registration:** [Click here](#). **Deadline:** November 9.

## **Business Manager Network Meeting**

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

**Date:** Friday, November 13

**Time:** Registration 8:30 AM; Meeting 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Staples Furniture Showroom, 13800 E. 39th Avenue, Aurora

**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](#). **Deadline:** November 10.

## **Building Your Formative Assessment Practice**

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools*

Sponsored by Northwest Evaluation Assessment (NWEA)

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

**Cost:** League members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee

Non-members: \$225 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee

**Description:** Participants will develop an understanding of formative assessment as part of a balanced assessment system and have opportunities to learn three key strategies for putting formative assessment to work in the classroom. Basic research behind key formative assessment strategies is shared, and educators are provided with ample time for planning focused on implementing:

- High-quality learning targets
- Practices that elicit evidence of learning
- Protocols for providing effective feedback in the classroom

**Registration:** [Click here](#). **Deadline:** November 3.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 15 attendees.

## **Rosetta Stone Onsite Training**

*Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and Rosetta Stone*

**\*\*This training is for Rosetta Stone users only\*\***

**Date:** Friday, November 20

**Time:** Registration 8:30 AM, Training 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** This training will provide an overview to utilizing Rosetta Stone in your school from the lens of The Learner Experience as well as the Administrator Experience. The session will provide an introduction to the Rosetta Stone Learning Experience, discuss how to implement Rosetta Stone into the classroom, explore Blended Learning Instructional Models and Differentiation Instruction, provide an introduction to the Rosetta Stone Administrator Tool, and discuss Change Management with Grading and Assessing Learner Performance.

**Registration:** [Click here](#). **Deadline:** November 18.

## **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 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](#). **Deadline:** January 15.

## 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 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.

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

**Registration:** Visit [www.cocharterconference.org](http://www.cocharterconference.org) for more information and to register.

## 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!

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