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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 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 October 2014



Welcome

While we encourage you to read through this entire newsletter please be sure to visit the section that most closely pertains to the stage of your school.

The ***Developing Schools*** section is intended for groups ranging from the earliest exploration all the way through the development and submission of their Charter School Application.

The ***Post Approval*** section is intended for groups that are either entering the first year of operations or are approved to open in 2015.

Regardless of what stage you are in, this monthly newsletter will offer you *critical resources, helpful tips* and information on important *events and trainings* so that your school can have a solid foundation.

Please feel free to contact Lori Ventimiglia and Kathy Zlomke in the New School Development office for questions, sample documents or other resources that you are looking for as you develop your school and if you haven't come in for a face to face meeting yet, please do schedule that with us at your convenience!

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Kathy Zlomke, Program Manager, New School Development

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2015 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

2015 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

Today's Students. Tomorrow's Leaders.

February 26-27, 2015 | Denver

Register by November 30 for Lowest Rates!

Join over 700 attendees at the Colorado Charter Schools Conference to learn and share best practices in all areas of a charter school, from the classroom, to the business office, to the board room, and more. Choose from over 60 Breakout Sessions taught by those who know the topics best - your charter school peers. Whether you are a new charter school leader, business manager, board member, teacher or new school developer, the Colorado Charter Schools Conference has something for you! Developing Schools receive a discount to attend (\$130/1 day or \$230/both days).

Stage 6 planning grants (and sometimes flex grants) can be used to attend the conference! Please check with [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to determine eligibility.

Visit www.cocharterconference.org for all of the details and to register.

New School Spotlight



Salida del Sol Academy

Salida del Sol Academy (SdSA) is one of 13 new charter schools that opened in Colorado this year!

Salida del Sol opened in East Greeley this fall at full enrollment, serving kindergarten through eighth grade.

SdSA emphasizes individual instruction for all children, choice and responsibilities within limits, multi-age classrooms, peer-to-peer learning, and developmentally appropriate instruction. The school emphasizes multi-cultural education and utilizes the Gomez and Gomez Dual Language Enrichment Model.

Learn more about Salida del Sol Academy by visiting www.salidadelsolacademy.org

If your new school opened this year please send pictures to [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Planning Grant Update

Metro area funds are available for new school developers in the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson.

Unfortunately, our planning grants for outside of the metro area are still depleted. We are in the process of seeking new grants to replenish the funding for these new school developers and will keep you updated as we

have more information

[Click here for all of the planning grant documents.](#) Please read the guidelines thoroughly before applying. You may use the evaluation rubric to self-evaluate your planning grant application but do not need to submit that to us. Make sure to submit a signed Expectations and Commitments form with the application and provide all required attachments. If a grant application doesn't receive an 80% by our review team, we will provide feedback and let groups submit again. IF that application still doesn't receive an 80% we will ask groups to wait 6 months before resubmitting for a planning grant. It is highly recommended that you reach out to [Lori Ventimiglia](#) before filling out the application to determine eligibility.

Colorado School Laws

2014 Print Edition of Colorado School Laws Available Through Your Authorizer

The 2014 printed edition of the Colorado School Laws has been received by CDE, and a copy for each authorized charter school has been included in the distribution to School Districts and CSI. Please contact your district to request your copy from them. If you have difficulty receiving a copy from your authorizer, please let us know.

If you are a new school that is not yet open, CDE can provide you a copy through their Schools of Choice Office allotment. Please email SOC@cde.state.co.us to set up a time to pick one up, or send a document-sized self-addressed, postage-paid envelop to Schools of Choice Office, Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Room 302, Denver, CO 80203.

Developing Schools

This section of the newsletter is intended for charter school developing groups in the early exploration stages of starting a school, or groups that are in the process of writing their charter application.

Resource of the Month: Opening a Healthy School

This resource speaks to charter schools of all ages. It provides schools with the bare minimum that each school should accomplish as dictated by statute with regards to the various school health components as well as promising and all- star practices, complete with further resources to help bolster your efforts.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Tip: Read the Charter Schools Act!

If you are in the early stages of developing your charter school it is imperative to understand the Colorado Charter Schools Act. An understanding of this will better equip you in creating a legally sound charter application. Please visit the [Charter Schools Act](#) (C.R.S. 22-30.5-101 through C.R.S. 22-30.5-704) to learn more.

Post Approval Schools

This section of the newsletter is intended for new charter schools entering year one of operation, or new charter schools approved to open in 2015.

State Assessment Update: Charters Must Request Paper Test Options through their Authorizer ASAP

We have been notified by the Colorado Department of Education that for the spring 2015 administration, charter schools will have the opportunity to administer paper assessments for all grades for mathematics, for grade 3 in English language arts, and for students who require the paper-based form due to accommodation needs (ex. students are unable to take the computer-based form due to neurological conditions).

If you wish to take advantage of this paper option, you must notify your authorizer as soon as possible. Your authorizer will need to make the request to CDE on your behalf no later than mid-November.

[Please click here for more information \(see page 4 of this document\).](#)

If you have any questions or run into problems requesting the available paper test options, please contact the League's New Schools Department

Resource of the Month: Deals and Discounts

The League offers its member schools access to a variety of specially negotiated deals and discounts on a variety of products and services. For example, each spring, the League offers deeply discounted pricing on Rosetta Stone annual licensing agreements. The League has also negotiated special deals on copiers, mobile phone service, and more. New deals and discounts are added to [our website](#) regularly so be sure to check it often.

Assessment Tip: Clarification on the READ Act

The State Education Department sought legal guidance from the Colorado Attorney General's office concerning whether the READ Act can be waived under either the Innovation Schools Act or the Charter Schools Act. It has been determined that the READ Act cannot be waived by either innovation or charter schools as the results of this assessment are a portion of the formula used to determine the performance rating of all schools in Colorado, to include charters. However, charter schools can seek a waiver from the state approved school readiness assessment to be given at the Kindergarten level. Any waiver request concerning assessment of school readiness would need to be accompanied by a replacement plan that meets the intent of the law. [Click here to read the complete letter from the Colorado State Commissioner of Education.](#)

Book Your Governance Training

Are you considering governance training this winter? The Colorado League of Charter Schools offers customized, facilitated governance trainings and board retreats. Facilitated board trainings cost \$700 for a half day and \$1,100 for a full day and take place on-site in your community or other choice of location. The trainings are customized to meet your school's specific needs. For more information, contact Joni Malli at jmalli@coloradoleague.org or 303-989-5356, ext. 115.

Upcoming Events

Business Managers Network Meeting

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

Date: Friday, November 7

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Summit Conference and Event Center, 411 Sable Blvd., Aurora, CO 80011

Cost: \$20 per person.

Please bring a check or money order made out to CDE with your name in the Memo.

Meals: Coffee and lunch

Description: These meetings are hosted jointly by the CDE Schools of Choice 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 to register](#). **Deadline:** November 5 at 8:00 AM.

The State Model Evaluation System Training

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and CDE

Date: Wednesday, November 12

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$25 for the first person. \$25 for each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$50 for the first person. \$50 for each additional attendee.

Audience: Charter School Teachers, Administrators, Coaches and other staff Involved in State Model Evaluations.

Description: The Colorado Department of Education will provide a one-day training for charter school teachers and their evaluators. This training will focus on both halves of the evaluation system, professional practice and measures of student learning. During the training, participants will be provided information on the purposes of Senate Bill 10-191 (Educator Effectiveness bill), the evaluation process, components of the State Model Evaluation Rubrics for teachers and principals, instructions on how to score the rubrics, and how to make determinations for the measures of student learning. Much attention will be paid to the implementation flexibility provided to charter schools. We will end the day with a panel of charter leaders who share their evaluation practices.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** November 7.

This workshop is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

Board Continuing Development (formerly Board Presidents Council)

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Unit

Date: Friday, November 14

Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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

Description: A training provided four times a year (two hosted in the Denver Metro area and two via webinar) to support board members' knowledge of best practice and evolving policy changes.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** November 12.

Regional Luncheon

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Unit

Date: Wednesday, November 19

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (optional tour 1:15 PM - 1:45 PM)

Location: Real de Minas, 6775 S. Cornerstar Way, Aurora

Tour: AXL Academy 14100 E Jewell Ave #21, Aurora

Cost/Meals: Participants will purchase their own lunch, \$10-12 per person

Description: Six luncheons will be offered throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Charter schools will host the luncheon at a restaurant near their school, followed by an optional tour of the school. These luncheons are an opportunity for school leaders, administrators, employees, and board members to network and broaden their knowledge, skills and resources.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** November 17.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, December 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Audience: IT Managers, Business Managers, Administrators

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

[Directions to Training Center](#)

Cost: \$25 per person for schools that are members of the Colorado League of Charter Schools / \$75 person for non-members.

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:** November 26.

For more information, contact Tiffany Kallevik at tkallevik@coloradoleague.org.

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/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 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.

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 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".

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. [Click here for more information.](#)

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