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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

October 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 3 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
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Onboarding Your Charter School

Approved (or Nearly Approved) Schools - [Sign Up Today](#) for Onboarding Your Charter School

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. Special group discounts apply for schools with three or more attendees and *you may be eligible for planning grants (check with [Lori Ventimiglia](#))*.

This two-day training will assist newly (and nearly) approved schools to navigate through the complexities of year-0; presenting a clear path forward as your school moves from theory to reality. In order to effectively transition your charter application from the theoretical proposal that it currently is into 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 the League's staff and learn how your school will be supported by the League moving forward, you won't want to miss this training! [Click here for more details](#).

New School Webinar Series

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is pleased to announce new offerings and updated content in our free webinar series for new charter school developers. 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," you can find it [here](#).

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. [Click here](#) to find the archived webinars and be sure to look for a schedule of upcoming live webinars in the next newsletter.

Planning Grants Update

Metro Area Planning Grants Replenished

We are pleased to announce that our Denver/Metro area incremental [planning grants](#) designed to assist with the application development and school launch process have been restored again this year thanks to support from the Anschutz Foundation! Also, the planning grants made possible through the Daniels Fund for teams outside of the metro area are still available but the grant cycle closes at the end of November. New School teams interested in applying for a planning grant should contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to learn about the process and determine eligibility.

Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) Grant

It is not too late for your school to consider applying to the 2015-16 CCSP Grant competition. The Request for Proposal for the **2015-16 Charter Schools Program (CCSP) Grant**, and other resources, are available online [here](#) and [here](#). You can access a recording of the 8/19/2015 CCSP Grant Writers Boot Camp by [clicking here](#). If you are considering applying, but have not yet submitted your Intent to Submit and Eligibility Forms, please do so ASAP to SOC@cde.state.co.us.

This grant program provides up to \$645,000 over a 2-3 year period for planning, design, and implementation of a new charter school or a significant expansion of an existing high-performing charter school. Colorado was successful in securing \$36.36 million over three years (2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18) from the federal program, which allows for up to 25 new grantees this fall!

Full eligibility rules will be outlined in the RFP, when released, but here is a summary:

- A new charter school planning for a 2015-16 or 2016-17 start, that will have already submitted a charter application by October 28, 2015 (though approval can still be pending)
- An existing, high-performing charter school (Performance on 3-year SPF) that is expanding 2 or more grade levels, or increasing their student population by 50% or more
- Application requires a District/Authorizer/LEA to serve as fiscal agent.

Important CCSP Grant deadline: CCSP Grant Application due date - **Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 11:59 PM**

For more information, please [click here](#), or contact Gina Schlieman, Manager, CDE Schools of Choice, at Schlieman_g@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6790.

Resources of the Month

Developing Schools: Resource of the Month:

If you are in the early stages of developing your school you might find it helpful to work on the [School Design Exercise](#) with your founding team. This exercise was developed by a new school developer as a way to capture in writing a snapshot of the various aspects that will go into your unique school design.

Post Approval: State Accountability and Assessment Tip!

All schools will be required to complete a [Unified Improvement Plan](#) within

their first year of opening. Please contact the League's Director of Performance Management, Tisha Bouwmeester at tbouwmeester@coloradolague.org if you have any questions about the UIP, accessing data or the state assessments transition and impact to schools.

Post Approval: Resource of the Month

Once approved, it is critical to understand when to purchase all of the necessary materials, furniture and technology. This [School Purchasing Calendar](#) will help you so that everything arrives on time!

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.

Gifted Education 101

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, October 6

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning, 2510 N. Chestnut Street, Colorado Springs

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person; Non-members: \$250 for one person. Additional attendees: \$100 per person. Lunch will be provided.

Description: Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning's founding principal and Academy Director Nikki Myers, and founding teacher and gifted education specialist Teresa Brown will guide participants in the following objectives:

- Awareness of the definition of giftedness and requirements in the state of Colorado for each charter and traditional public school
- Awareness of the characteristics of giftedness as they present in the classroom and the challenges that teachers face in supporting those needs
- Strategies and techniques for addressing gifted educational needs that can be met within a variety of school models
- Sample Advanced Learning Plan formats that meet requirements for Colorado.

Registration: [Click here](#). **Deadline:** Friday, October 2.

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

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, October 7

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for first attendee | Non-members: \$250 for first attendee. Additional attendees: \$100 per person.

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 strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners.

Outcomes: In this workshop, 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;
- Research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your classroom.

Registration: [Click here](#). **Deadline:** Monday, October 5.

Webinar: Instant Alignment & Instant Action with NWEA MAP & Achieve3000

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and Achieve3000

Date: Thursday, October 8

Time: 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Description: Join this webinar to learn how NWEA MAP and Achieve3000 complement each other to make the MOST of your MAP assessment. Immediately differentiate to each student's exact areas of need. Achieve3000 is the ONLY cross-curricular literacy solution that differentiates to 19 lexile levels (12 in English and 7 in Spanish) and reaches ALL levels of learners- including below, on, above grade level, intervention, ELL, SPED, G&T. Achieve uniquely delivers the same subject, content, and grade level standards to each student while differentiating the lesson's text to each students just right reading level.

Registration: Please fill out a [registration form](#) with a valid email address and you will receive a confirmation email with the URL for the webinar. Contact Tiffany Kallevik at tkallevik@coloradoleague.org with any questions.

2015 Charter School Policy & Facility Summit

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, October 12

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Denver Police Protective Association Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street, Denver

Cost: League members: \$55 per person | Non-members: \$75 per person. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Group Discount: There is a 20% discount when registering groups of three or more. Please enter discount code PFGROUP20 at checkout when registering three or more attendees.

Description: The 2015 Charter School Policy and Facility Summit will provide charter school leaders with important information about ongoing policy issues affecting charter schools as well as potential 2016 legislation that could impact charters. Attendees will also hear from individuals experienced in all aspects of the charter school facilities process and learn decision-making best practices regarding facilities projects for their schools.

Registration: [Click here](#). **Deadline:** Friday, October 2.

[CLICK HERE FOR AGENDA](#)

2015 Safe Schools Summit

Hosted by Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Wednesday, October 14 - Thursday, October 15

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

Location: 1500 E. 128th Avenue., Thornton

Cost: Free

Audience: Administrators, Teachers, School Safety Teams, School/Community Mental Health Professionals, School Resource Officers, First Responders, Parents, Anyone who works with youth

Description: 24 Interesting workshops including:

- Michael Song "The Impact of Marijuana Legalization"
- Dr. Kate Cumbo "What Would the Dalai Lama Do?"
- Sarah Brummett "Colorado State Suicide Prevention"
- Janise McNally and Amy Plog " Mindfulness as a Strategy to Support School Safety"
- BASIC Prep - Building DNA, ServPro, Pinnacle Charter School, Adams 12 And more!Registration: [Click here for more information and to register](#).

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Webinar: Building a Compliant and Effective Screening Program

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and Verified Volunteers

Date: Thursday, October 15

Time: 10:00 - 10:45 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: Free

Description: Background screening for your volunteer program is central to protecting your reputation and ensuring the safety of your participants. But the average screening program is plagued by inefficiencies, inconsistencies and poor quality.

Why does screening have to be so hard?

It doesn't. Verified Volunteers can help simplify and streamline your volunteer screening process. Join us to learn more about how you can build a streamlined process--one that the volunteer coordinators and volunteers will love!

Verified Volunteers is the only screening company dedicated to nonprofit

and volunteer organizations. Our system allows the volunteer to own and share their background check with other organizations, free of charge to the receiving organizations. Add in volunteer self-service with payment and contribution options, monthly updates, renewal management, and a terrific management dashboard, and you can see how we are saving communities time and money in their volunteer screening program.

Registration: [Click here](#). **Deadline:** October 8. Please register using a valid email address and the URL for the webinar will be emailed to you.

4th Annual Colorado NWEA MAP Users Conference

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, October 23

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Cherry Creek Student Achievement Resource Center, 14188 E. Briarwood Avenue, Centennial

Cost: \$175 early bird, \$225 regular rate. Early bird ends September 30. Groups of 3 or more use the discount code NWEAGROUP for \$20 off per person.

Description: Join NWEA MAP users from more than 50 schools and districts across Colorado for this one-of-a-kind event. Improve your use and understanding of this valuable assessment while networking and learning from users and experts in the field. The conference will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics designed for advanced, intermediate and beginner users.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Early bird rates end October 2.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) formerly known as Response to Intervention - Two-Day Workshop

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30

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

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

Directions to Training Center

Cost: League Members: \$325 for one person and \$150 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$425 for one person and \$150 per additional attendee (Grant funds were used to subsidize the cost of this training, which would normally cost \$685/person).

Description: MTSS is a comprehensive, student-centered assessment, systems, and intervention framework used to identify and support individual student academic or social emotional gaps and 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:

- Identifying, collecting and analyzing student data with a robust body of evidence
- Selecting instructional and social emotional Tier 1,2, and 3 interventions aligned to appropriate skill gaps
- Monitoring student progress and setting appropriate goals
- Deepen your understanding of the principles of MTSS and best practices as shared through national researched based practices and real time case scenarios,

- Prioritize and action plan next steps for your team or individual tool box and capacity

Registration: [Click here](#). **Deadline:** Monday, October 26.

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.

CDE Business Manager Network Meeting

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

Date: Friday, November 13

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: TBD

Cost: \$35 per person (lunch included)

Audience: Anyone who handles finance/operations at a charter school is invited to attend.

Description: Let us know what hot topics you want to have addressed at this upcoming meeting: The CDE BMN meeting takes place quarterly as an interactive, day-long workshop for charter school business managers to network and share best practices. Charter schools receive the most current and practical, experience-based technical information on topics pertinent to the business management of charter schools.

Registration: Coming soon.

Contact: Tiffany Kallevik at tkallevik@coloradoleague.org with your suggestion(s) for topics to be covered.

6th Annual PowerSchool Users Conference

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates: 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 to register](#). **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 - Friday, February 26

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 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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