

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

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!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS September 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 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* in order for your school to gain 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

Table of Contents

[Welcome](#)

[Onboarding Your Charter School](#)

[New School Webinar Series](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

[Planning Grants Update](#)

[Newly Approved Schools](#)

[Resource of the Month](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Information from CDE Schools of Choice](#)

[In Every Issue](#)

Contact Us

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

[New School](#)

Kathy Zlomke, Program Manager, New School Development
Colorado League of Charter Schools
303-989-5356 x104
kzломke@coloradoleague.org

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

Onboarding Your Charter School

Approved (or Nearly Approved) Schools

Mark Your Calendar for Onboarding Your Charter School

If your school is approved to open in 2016 (or you are a 2016 "new school hopeful" with an application being submitted 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 (contact [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.

Included in this training will be a networking lunch, opportunities to meet with trusted vendors and a special "Meet the League" session where you will hear from each person on the League's staff and learn how they can better support your school moving forward. You won't want to miss this! See below for details:

Onboarding Your Charter School

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates: Thursday, November 5 - Friday, November 6

Time: 9:00 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 for details.

Note: Includes light breakfast and lunch both days.

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

Audience: 2016 cohort of new schools (schools that are approved to open in 2016 or have applications under consideration for a 2016 opening). Board members, Head of School (if hired) and Business Manager (if hired) are all strongly encouraged to attend.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** October 30. Space is Limited.

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. 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 will be held the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate! The first webinar that will kick off the series will be presented in conjunction with planned UIP trainings scheduled at two different times for your convenience (See Mark Your Calendar for details). A full listing of webinars will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

Also, please [click here](#) to learn about the new school webinars currently available on our website.

Mock Interviews

If you have submitted, or will be submitting, a Charter School Application to an authorizer this fall please contact the League to schedule a Mock Interview. The New School Development office at the League offers these **free** Mock Interviews in order to better prepare developing groups for their district meetings and interviews. The Mock Interviews provide a charter school applicant the opportunity to practice communicating the support and defense of their new school application. While we can't anticipate the questions an authorizer will ask an applicant, we hope that running through sample questions will help applicants prepare effectively for the authorizer process. Groups interested in setting up an interview should plan to have at least three team members (including a Governing Board member) present and allow for a 60 to 75 minute interview. Please contact [Kathy](#) or [Lori](#) at your earliest convenience if you are interested in setting this up.

Planning Grants Update

Planning grants for groups in the Denver/Metro area have been depleted. These grants have been made possible each year since 2010 from the Anschutz Foundation. We have submitted a new grant to the Anschutz Foundation and hope to hear of a new award in September. If you are developing a school in Boulder, Douglas, Jefferson, Denver or any of the Adams counties, please check our [website](#) or email [Lori Ventimiglia](#) before writing a grant application. *Planning grant funds are **still available** for groups developing schools outside of the counties listed above.*

Welcome Newly Approved Schools

We would like to congratulate and formally welcome the newest round of approved charter schools to the charter community for a 2016 opening! The latest schools that gained authorization and recently became one step

closer to opening their doors are:

[Launch High School](#) (Colorado Springs/CSI)
[TriCity Academy](#) (Englewood or Sheridan)

Resource of the Month

The [Quality Standards for Developing Charter Schools](#) have been developed for founding groups that are in the process of designing a charter school and writing a charter application. The Quality Standards have recently been embedded within the [Colorado Standard Application Guidebook and Review Rubric](#), which is what the majority of school districts statewide use to evaluate charter applications. The League has created these standards in order to provide clear guidance for developing groups on what it means to be a high-quality, successful applicant. By understanding and meeting these standards, and following through with their well-developed processes, new schools are more likely to be met with success through the application and startup process. Please use this document in conjunction with any guidance your authorizer recommends. The Quality Standards is an invaluable companion when writing your application with over 70 links to resources and critical information.

Mark Your Calendar

Webinar: What You Need to Know about the State Assessment Transition, Accountability Timeline and the UIP for the 2015-2016 School Year

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, September 1

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: Webinar

Cost: League Members: Free, Non-members: \$25

Description: Review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc.) timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2015-2016, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, August 28

Webinar: What You Need to Know about the State Assessment Transition, Accountability Timeline and the UIP for the 2015-2016 School Year

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, September 2

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Webinar

Cost: League Members: Free, Non-members: \$25

Description: Review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc.) timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2015-2016, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, August 28

Charter Communicators Network Meeting

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, September 10

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: \$25 per person, Non-Members: \$75 per person. 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.

The September meeting will focus on creating communications policies and procedures, internal communications, and messaging charter schools.

[Click here](#) to view the agenda.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** September 4.

Annual Finance Seminar

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 11

Time: Registration and breakfast from 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM.

Seminar from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: \$35 per person. \$75 for vendors to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Description: Held in the fall of each year, this training is designed to give business managers, school leaders and board members an opportunity to get up to date with changes in policy or innovations in the field of operations and finance management (required for all CCSP Grant recipients). District staff working with charter schools authorization and support may also benefit from this unique insight into the charter context.

Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- Crafting a Crisis Communications Plan Before You Need It
- Establishing Solid HR Practices
- Financial Decision-Making for Administrators
- Grant Budgeting
- Grants Annual Fiscal Reporting
- Health and Wellness: Strategies that Pay Off for Schools
- HR: Crafting High Value Benefit Packages on a Tight Budget
- PERA 101
- Priority Based Budgeting: How Well Does Your Budget Reflect Your Mission
- Reading Financials: What Key Indicators Should You Know and Understand
- Risk Management: Know What You Don't Know Yet
- Strategic Tech Spending: Implementing Technology to Achieve Your Mission

[Click here](#) to view the agenda.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, September 4.

Colorado Community Wellness Symposium

Hosted by Kids' Adventures

Date: Saturday, September 12

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: 3800 S. Logan Street, Englewood

Cost: Registration and lunch are free.

Description: Kids' Adventures is a before & after day care provider at 40+ schools throughout the Front Range. On September 12, 2015, they are presenting the 1st Annual Colorado Community Wellness Symposium. They have assembled a great lineup of experts in the fields of Movement, Learning, and Mindfulness. Learn about the influence movement has on focus, memory and mood from the author of Spark; John Ratey, MD. Get up and move as representatives from BOKS teach us tools to start our days off with a kick! Finally, Nattiel Pierson will walk us through some simple processes to deal with stress. And best yet? Registration and lunch are free!

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

4th Annual Colorado NWEA MAP User's 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 9. 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.](#) **Deadline:** October 19.

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 per person. Rate increases December 14th. *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

Presented by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, February 25 - Saturday, February 27

Location: Omni Interlocken Resort, 500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield

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.

Registration: Registration will open in fall 2015.

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 or that they are public schools. New and developing schools should find this video to be a great introduction about charter schools to share 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](#)

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.

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!

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to srader@coloradoleague.org by lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



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