



COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*Charter Schools are Public Schools*

## 2017 Charter School Policy & Facility Summit

**Monday, September 25, 2017**

Registration: 7:30 AM | Event: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Arvada Center for the Arts & Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, 80003

7:30 AM

**Registration opens**

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Breakfast and General Session – Charters and Choice in the Age of Trump: A Panel Discussion**  
*Main Ballroom*

From the election of Donald Trump at the national level to the passage of House Bill 1375 here in Colorado, much has transpired this past year with both direct and indirect impacts on the charter sector. Attend this panel for a lively discussion of what it all means for charter schools moving forward, and to hear from elected officials and education reporters on what they see as primary education trends heading into 2018.

**Panelists:** *State Representative Jeff Bridges (D-Greenwood Village); State Senator Tim Neville (R-Littleton); State Senator Angela Williams (D-Denver); Nic Garcia, Deputy Bureau Chief – Chalkbeat Colorado*

9:40 AM - 10:30 AM

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**School Safety 2.0: Resources and Best Practices for a Post-Claire Davis World**

The world of school safety has changed dramatically in the past two decades, a shift epitomized by the passage of SB213 (the “Claire Davis Act”) in 2015, a bill that officially went into full effect on July 1, 2017. Attend this session for updates on what that full effect date likely means as well as for a broader discussion of school safety resources and best practices in a post-Claire Davis world.

**Presenter(s):** *Christine R. Harms MS, Director – Colorado School Safety Resource Center; Steve Sanchez, Underwriter – Hanover Insurance Group; Eric Slinger, Client Executive – HUB International Colorado*

**Due Diligence: Be Cautious with Contracts and Clauses**

The journey to finding the right facility for a school stretches board and leadership teams to maximum capacity. Once the ideal land or building is discovered, signing the contract appears to be the final obstacle to clear in making the dream a reality. Starry-eyed visions of students learning and engaging on the perfect campus can make even the wisest of school leaders giddy to sign any paperwork placed in front of them. Overcome this all-too-common error by attending this session where you will 1) hear cautionary tales, 2) learn to recognize concerning clauses, and 3) develop a diligent process for legal and financial review that will protect your school’s major investment.

**Presenter(s):** *Brad Miller – Law Office of Brad A. Miller; Bart A. Skidmore, CPA*

### **How to Design and Operate a Charter High School**

The growing need to better prepare young adults for college and career readiness is driving more charter school leaders to consider model expansions into the higher grades. What does it take to plan and implement a successful high school program? It takes preparation, teamwork and determination. Join this session to learn how one school made it work and the steps they took to achieve their vision.

**Presenter(s):** *DeAnn Barnett – Banning Lewis Ranch Preparatory Academy; Eric Dinnel – Accel Schools; JaDee Harsma – DLR Group*

### 10:40 AM – 11:30 AM **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

#### **Legislation of Note from the 2017 Session: Sexting, Mill Sharing, and What You Need to Know**

Two of the primary bills from Colorado's 2017 legislative session with implications for charter schools were House Bill 17-1375 on mill equalization and HB 17-1302 on juvenile sexting. Attend this session to learn more about the specifics of each and what you and your school can be doing to ensure optimal implementation.

**Presenter(s):** *Eric Hall, Partner – Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP; Dan Schaller, Director of Governmental Affairs – Colorado League of Charter Schools*

#### **Facility Financing: Identify Affordability and Attract Funding**

The Colorado charter school sector is booming; investors and lenders are taking notice. With all of the possibilities, what does it take to effectively navigate these tempting options? Avoid the pitfalls of incurring too much debt by using tried and true analysis tools to determine what your school can really afford. Once those calculations are complete, it's time to prepare your school for financing consideration and to determine which option works best for your needs. Join this session for an explanation of affordability templates, which can then be used to position your school to attract financing and then you'll learn how to evaluate those options to get the best terms for long-term viability.

**Presenter(s):** *Jane Ellis – Colorado Charter Facility Solutions; Paul Jasin – Specialized Public Finance, Inc.; Eric Duran – D.A. Davidson & Co.*

#### **Charter School Facilities Initiative: Preliminary Findings from the 2017 Colorado Survey**

In the spring of 2017, the League – with the help of its member schools – completed a comprehensive survey of the current state and future needs of Colorado charter school facilities. While the full report is due out later this year, select preliminary findings are now available and will be presented during this session. Attend to see how your school's facility situation stacks up and what current trends are in the evolution of charter school facilities in Colorado.

**Presenter(s):** *Ben Lindquist, President – Colorado League of Charter Schools*

### 11:40 AM – 12:30 PM **General Session – Keynote Address: Becoming an A+ Advocate**

#### ***Main Ballroom***

Good policies depend on good politics. And in a national environment where public support for charter schools appears to be dipping, it's more important than ever that strong charter school leaders also serve as strong charter school advocates. In this session, prominent national activist/blogger Chris Stewart will address how to become an A+ advocate for charter schools while at the same time building out the systems and structures to ensure your parents and families are activated for action as well.

12:30 PM – 1:20 PM **Lunch, Networking and Visiting with Exhibitors**  
*Main Ballroom & Foyer*

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**Regulation Round-Up: From Data Privacy to Transportation, Updates from CDE on Recent Regulatory Developments**

Two areas of recent regulatory activity with implications for charter schools were the revision of State Board rules related to school transportation vehicles and the ongoing roll-out of 2016's student data privacy law (HB16-1423). Attend this session for updates from CDE on both of these measures.

**Presenter(s):** *Marcia Bohannon, Chief Information Officer – Colorado Department of Education; Jennifer Okes, Executive Director, School Finance Division – Colorado Department of Education; Jill Stacey, Data Privacy Analyst – Colorado Department of Education*

**Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District: Implications for Charter School Special Education from the Supreme Court's 2017 Andrew F. Decision**

In March of 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District* that "To meet its substantive obligation under IDEA, a school must offer an IEP reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances." It then went on to say that programs provided to students with IEPs must be "appropriately ambitious." What exactly does this new standard mean, and what should your school be doing as a result? Attend this session to learn more from a national expert on the subject and to get your questions answered.

**Presenter(s):** *Paul O'Neill, Co-Founder & Senior Fellow – National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools*

**Facility Construction: 10 Critical Steps to Success**

In today's Colorado real estate market, ensuring your new build or facility renovations are completed on time becomes trickier than ever to accomplish. Timelines for the entire new build process typically fall into the 12 – 18 month range, so preparation in advance is paramount. Understanding the overall construction and design process will enable your school to stay on track and on budget during this highly complex undertaking. Attendees joining this session will learn about the phases of facility planning, development and execution. There are hundreds of steps in the building process, but these presenters will highlight the 10 most critical to your team's success. Emerge from this session ready to build your school.

**Presenter(s):** *Kurt Connolly – Inline Management; Jim Andrews – Fransen Pittman General Contractors*

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM **General Session – School Finance Update**  
*Main Ballroom*

How will changes from the 2017 legislative session impact your school's funding? What are the latest predictions for how school finance in Colorado will change in the coming years? Attend this session to hear from state experts on these and other topics related to the ever-evolving school funding landscape.

**Presenter(s):** *Jennifer Okes, Executive Director, School Finance Division – Colorado Department of Education; others TBD*