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## Charting the Capitol Election Edition: Fall 2017

With school board races in full swing, this edition of Charting the Capitol newsletter is less about legislative updates and more about the forthcoming election on November 7. In connection with the election, we've developed a number of resources to assist in both setting the record straight on Colorado charter public schools and navigating proper election engagement parameters. Read on for further information about these resources as well as ways to get involved to strengthen the charter cause both in your community and across the state.

[Help Set the Record Straight on Colorado Charter Public Schools](#)  
[The Do's and Don'ts of Election Engagement](#)  
[Invite Current and Future Elected Officials to Visit Your School](#)  
[Choices in Education Video Contest](#)  
[What Makes Your School Unique? Share Your Stories](#)

### Help Set the Record Straight on Colorado Charter Public Schools

As you all well know, charter public schools have existed in Colorado for over two decades. Despite this fact and the fact that charters now serve upwards of 115,000 students across the state, there are still a number of charter public school myths and misunderstandings that endure. Not surprisingly, these lies and misinformation tend to become more prevalent during election season.

In order to set the record straight, particularly for those running for public office, the Colorado League of Charter Schools developed several resources focused on the facts of Colorado's charter public school sector. We recently shared these resources with each of the nearly 500 individuals from across the state currently running for school board seats in their districts. We also wanted to share these materials with you because you are counteracting charter misinformation on a regular basis.

These concise documents include:

- A "[Colorado Charter School Basics](#)" [one-pager](#) with key background information on charter public schools in Colorado;
- "[Colorado Charter Schools: Myth vs Fact](#)" [document](#) that lays out some of the common myths about charter schools along with the relevant facts from here in Colorado; and
- [A synopsis](#) of some of the key findings of the state's most recent analysis of charter schools in Colorado completed by the Colorado Department of Education in 2016.

Please review these resources and use the information contained in them to help set the record straight in your community about Colorado charter public schools. Unless we all work together to consistently counter the pernicious misinformation spread by opponents of choice and charter schools, we'll never be effective in turning the tide. Additional information is also available at [www.CharterPublic.org](http://www.CharterPublic.org).

### The Do's and Don'ts of Election Engagement

Because election season is in full swing, we continue to receive a number of inquiries about ways in which charter public schools can and cannot get involved. To assist in answering these questions, we developed a short one-pager that provides an overview of the key do's and don'ts of charter school involvement in electoral activity. [Click here to access this resource](#), and be sure to consult

your school's legal counsel should you have any specific follow-up questions related to this guidance.

### **Invite Candidates and Legislators to Visit Your School**

Whether it's school board candidates before the election or state lawmakers in the next few months leading up to the 2018 legislative session in January, **now is the ideal time to be inviting public officials to visit your school.** These officials love seeing and hearing from students, and they enjoy connecting with their constituents and hearing about their successes. Don't miss this opportunity to reach out and show off the great things that make your charter public school unique. If you need assistance in scheduling these visits, the League is here to help, so don't hesitate to contact us. [Click here](#) to access details and contact information about the candidates running for school board in your district, and [here to find contact information for your current state-level elected officials.](#)

### **Choices in Education Video Contest**

The Foundation for Excellence in Education is hosting a [Choices in Education](#) video contest for students and families to share how educational choice made a difference in their lives. The top five winners will be announced during National School Choice Week in January and will receive cash prizes ranging from \$5,000 - \$15,000. Please consider participating as this is a great opportunity to share our stories and shine a spotlight on transformational local schools here in Colorado!

### **What Makes Your School Unique? Share Your Stories**

We all know charter public schools are positively impacting tens of thousands of children across the state. However, these positive contributions often get overshadowed by the increasing amount of negative news that opponents of charters schools generate.

The League, working in conjunction with national partners, is trying to change that narrative. We're making a concerted push to line up and pitch as many positive stories about Colorado charter schools as possible, and for that we need your help.

- Is your school doing innovative and ground-breaking work, perhaps particularly with historically underserved student populations?
- Does your school have a compelling story to share about your school's creation, development, or strong track record of success?
- Are there individuals at your school with unique backgrounds whose stories are worth profiling?
- What about your students? We'd love to hear from them about their unique perspectives on why different charter school programs meet their individual needs.

Be sure to reach out and share with us the great things taking place at your school. Thank you.

**Sincerely,**

Dan Schaller  
 Director of Governmental Affairs  
[dschaller@coloradoleague.org](mailto:dschaller@coloradoleague.org)  
 303-989-5356 x105

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

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