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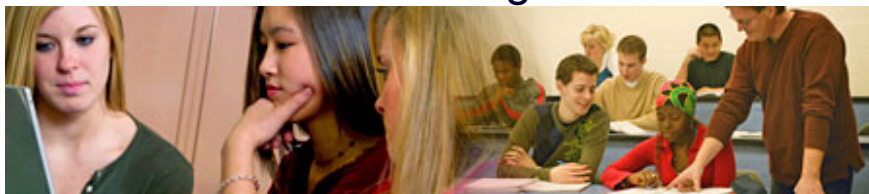
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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

August 2017



Back to School Edition

Back to school season is always an exciting time in the education world and for the 16 Colorado charter schools (including new, expansions, and replications) preparing to open this fall, I can assure you it is even more thrilling - and nerve-wracking! From the minutia like remembering to put tissues in each classroom to the higher impact details like teacher orientation and professional development; the final push is simultaneously exhilarating and exhausting!

If you are one of those schools at this stage, please be sure to take a moment to slow down, take a breath, and congratulate yourself! Reflect on how far you've come (remember your first call to the League), and know that there are 238 charter schools in Colorado that have gotten through the startup years. You will, too! And don't forget that the League will continue to be there for you through the life of your school! We are excited to welcome the following charter schools to Colorado's charter school community:

- **Academy of Advanced Learning**- Aurora
- **American Academy 3** - Parker
- **Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy** - Colorado Springs
- **Colorado Early College** - Aurora
- **Colorado High School (GES Campus)** - Denver
- **Colorado Military Academy** - Colorado Springs
- **Denver School of Science and Technology - Conservatory Green High School** - Denver
- **Great Work Montessori** - Lakewood
- **Monument View Montessori Charter School** - Fruita
- **Mountain Middle School** - Durango
- **Pagosa Peak Open School** - Pagosa Springs
- **Pueblo School of Arts and Science/Fulton Heights** - Pueblo
- **Renaissance Secondary School** - Castle Rock
- **The Boys School** - Denver
- **The Juniper School** - Durango
- **Vega Collegiate Academy** - Aurora

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Contact Us

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Note from the New Schools Team

The decision to start a charter public 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 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.

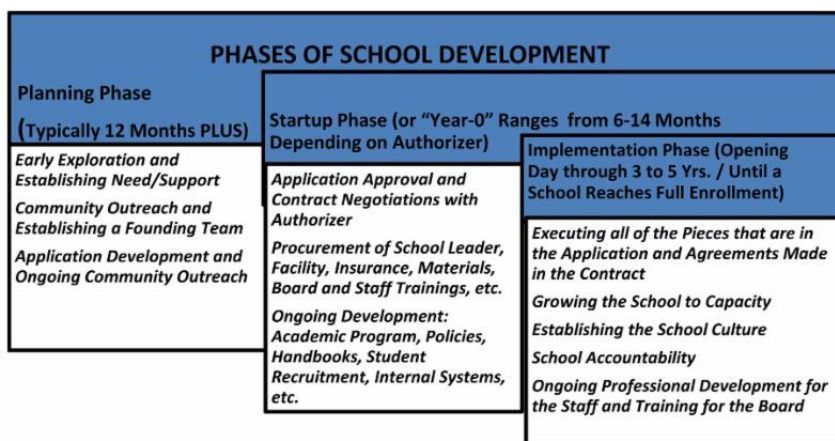
No matter what phase of development you are in; this monthly newsletter will offer you *critical resources*, *helpful tips* and information about important *events and trainings* so that your school can have a solid foundation with a high likelihood of success.

If you haven't come in for a face to face meeting yet, please schedule that with us at your convenience!

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Phases of School Development



Tips and Resources for Schools in the Planning Stage

Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) Grant and Application Training

This is for teams with an approved charter application or who are applying this fall to their district. It is a required training for Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) grant applicants. The training takes place 6-8 weeks before the grant application is due. CDE highly recommends that two or more individuals from each applicant charter school attend this training.

The Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) provides this competitive grant and technical assistance for up to three years to new and expanding charter schools. The Colorado Department of Education has been awarded \$36 million for a 2015-2018 federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant.

CCSP Grants may be awarded for reasonable, one-off expenses associated with planning, design, and implementation of a new school or significant expansion project in the form of a 3-year grant for charter schools applying in the year before the launch of a new school or significant-expansion project, or in the form of a 2-year grant for those applying the year of a project launch. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- equipment and furnishings
- professional development
- board training
- curriculum & supplies
- library development
- technology software

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Department

Date: Wednesday, August 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Community First Foundation, 5855 Wadsworth Bypass, Unit A, Arvada

Description: A required training for Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) grant applicants that takes place 6-8 weeks before the grant application is due. CDE highly recommends that two or more individuals from each applicant charter school attend this training.

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

Application Review

If you are planning to submit a charter application to your district this fall, **now** is the time to schedule an application review. Our extensive two-part application review process should begin eight weeks prior to your district/authorizer application deadline. [Stage 5 Planning Grants](#) are available to cover the costs of the application review. These grants are available for groups that have most of the essential pieces of their charter application in place, including a sound budget, thoughtful academic and performance management plans, and a mission-aligned organizational structure. For questions about the application review process, please reach out to [Kathy Zlomke](#) at your earliest convenience.

A Cost Estimation Tool for Charter Schools

The National Resource Center on Charter School Finance and Governance provides this tool to help startup charter school operators identify and estimate the range of costs and the timing of expenditures they will be obligated to cover during startup and the early years of operation. The tool includes templates and worksheets covering a wide range of areas including enrollment and facility needs.

[Click here for Narrative](#)

[Click here for Excel Tool](#)

Intentionally Diverse Charter Schools: A Toolkit for Charter School Leaders

Safal Partners and the National Charter School Resource Center provide this toolkit to help charter school leaders and their stakeholders design and implement intentionally diverse charter schools. It presents decisions and actions, along with specific examples from three diverse charter schools, for school leaders' consideration. Using this toolkit, leaders will

learn more about how to measure student diversity, how to intentionally recruit and retain students, how to ensure that diversity is supported and experienced meaningfully at the individual, classroom, and school-wide levels, and how to create and run schools that help all children thrive. [Click here to view toolkit.](#)

Tips and Resources for Schools in the Startup and Implementation Stages

Financial Reporting Requirements

Charter schools are required to post the following on their school website:

- Charter School Adopted Budget - Including Uniform Budget Summary (current and prior two years)
- Charter School Financial Audit (current and prior two years)
- Charter School Salary Schedules or Policies (current and prior two years)
- Link to Authorizing School District's Financial Transparency Webpage
- List of Waivers Received by the Charter School
- Other Charter School-Specific Financial Information

However, charter schools are not required to post a financial data file as the charter school's data is incorporated into the school district's posted financial data file. [Click here to view Required Financial Transparency.](#)

A User's Guide to Fiscal Oversight for Charter School Governing Boards

The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, presents this toolkit to foster proper fiscal oversight of charter schools. The toolkit is targeted to charter school governing boards as key stakeholders in ensuring a charter school is financially viable and able to pursue its primary educational goals. The toolkit compiles successful practices and recommendations on how to 1) prevent, 2) identify, and 3) manage the common financial issues that charter schools face. The toolkits cover both financial insolvency and fraud with a set of checklists that boards and authorizers can use to ensure that charter school funds are used to best serve their students. [A User's Guide to Fiscal Oversight: A Toolkit for Charter School Governing Boards](#)

Save The Date For Startup Stage Teams

Instructional Coaching Practices

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, September 8

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Description: This workshop will focus on two instructional coaching practices: 1) Observation/Feedback Cycles, and 2) Data Review Meetings. Participants will:

- Learn and apply an observation/feedback protocol called the 6 Steps for Effective Feedback.
- Determine what to coach along with how to coach by digging into the management and rigor trajectories for new teachers.
- Master and apply a simple protocol for engaging in 1:1 data meetings that harness the standard-based teaching and learning cycle.

- Learn about tools and resources for ensuring accountability loops and tracking teacher growth.

References:

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Leverage Leadership: A Practical Guide to Building Exceptional Schools, 2012.

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Get Better Faster: A 90 Day Plan for Coaching New Teachers, 2016.

Doug Lemov, Practice Perfect: 42 Rules for Getting Better and Getting Better, 2012.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, September 6.

Legal Seminar - Friday, October 27 Save the Date!

[Charter School Law Institute](#) will be hosting a one-day, in-depth legal seminar on emerging federal and state civil rights issues. Through a combination of lectures and small-group breakout sessions led by local and national experienced legal counsel, attendees will:

- examine how to navigate immigration issues facing students and schools;
- learn how the US Supreme Court is raising expectations for public schools serving special education students;
- discuss how to prevent race discrimination, including unintentional and unconscious bias;
- review state and federal laws regarding LGBT students;
- and address issues specific to school discipline, bullying, harassment and sexual violence.

Together, participants will tackle the most cutting edge legal questions facing charter schools across the country. As an attendee, you will leave with concrete, practical strategies and tips on how to ensure you are in compliance of all related legal requirements and effectively serving all students.

Registration: [Coming soon](#).

In Every Issue

The following information is included in each newsletter as they are valuable resources to keep on your radar.

New School Development Resources

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!

Health and Wellness Resources

<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/resources/healthy-schools-best-practices-guides/>

<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/resources/connecting-health-and-learning-health-is-vital-to-student-success-an-overview-of-relevant-research/>

<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MakingtheCaseFF.pdf>

School Safety

<http://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/safeschools/E-Updates/CSSRC-E-UpdateJuly2017.pdf>

Community Presentation Resources

- Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJNqgDobfoI0Qf3t78oVMcQ>
- FACTS: <http://coloradoleague.org/?charterschoolfacts>
- Infographics: <http://coloradoleague.org/?infographics>
- Website: <http://www.charterpublic.org/>
(Great for messaging your charter school)!

Information from CDE Schools of Choice Office

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/chartregstart.asp> - This is the events page for the Schools of Choice unit at CDE. This site should also be checked frequently as there are always important and relevant workshops and seminars for developing schools that CDE Schools of Choice offers.

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/chartcalendar>

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>

Mark Your Calendar

Whether you are in the planning phase, have been approved or are a Year-One school, there are critical professional development opportunities listed below. If you are unclear as to whether or not you should attend a training listed below, please contact the League's [New School Development department](#). Please continue to check the [League Calendar](#) for upcoming trainings.

HR Foundations

Date: August 29

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Denver Metro Chamber, 1445 Market Street, Denver

Description: Gain a fundamental understanding of common HR laws and regulations affecting your business and leave with valuable resources to put in your toolkit (four session track runs August 29 - November 29).

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

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, September 6

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$25; Non-Members: \$50

Location: CounterTrade Products, 7585 West 66th Ave., Arvada

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 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:** Monday, September 4.

CDE's Annual Finance Seminar and CCSP Grant Budget

Workshop

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Friday, September 8, 2017

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E 128th Avenue, Thornton

Description: Held in the fall of each year, this training is designed to give business managers, school leaders and board members an opportunity to learn about changes in policy or innovations in the field of operations and finance management (required for all CCSP grant recipients).

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

Close Reading Strategies Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note: Registration and payment covers three separate events.**

Please make sure you can attend each one.**

Dates/Times:

Wednesday, September 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, October 18 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, November 15 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions

Note: Lunch will be provided at each session

Target Audience: Teachers, Reading and/or Literacy Specialists and Interventionists, Reading Across the Curriculum Teachers, Instructional Coaches

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will learn a variety of ways to teach Common Core State standards through close reading rituals and various systematic strategies. These strategies can be used across the content areas and with various curriculum components. Teachers will be able to experience the close reading rituals with a variety of text, standards, models, and have time to adjust existing lesson plans to embed and implement the close reading strategies learned. They will also learn how to make a close reading strategy a ritual, embed interventions, and receive quality feedback through reciprocal peer interaction.

Close Reading Strategies 101 (Wednesday, September 13)

Close Reading Strategies 102 (Wednesday, October 18)

Close Reading Strategies 103 (Wednesday, November 15)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 8.

Administrator Mentoring Cohort

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Office

Date: Wednesday, September 13

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Rocky Mountain Academy, 2959 Royale Elk Way, Evergreen

Description: A mentoring program that meets six times a year, geared toward new administrators or experienced administrators that are new to the charter school environment (though administrators outside these categories are welcome). Administrators will work as a cohort team, work one-on-one with a mentor, and participate in site observations as they build leadership capacity among new charter school administrators.

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

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education

Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, September 14

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee | Non-Members: \$100 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee

Description: School leaders (principals, executive directors, etc.) are ultimately responsible for the operation and compliance of special education programming in their schools. Therefore, it is essential that school leaders, in addition to special education teachers/coordinators, understand the IDEA requirements for special education services and make sure their school is in compliance with these requirements. This workshop is designed to equip school leaders with 8 critical strategies for managing special education compliance.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, September 11. Event is contingent on 8 attendees.

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note: Registration and payment covers three separate "events".**

Please make sure you can attend each one.**

Dates/Times/Locations:

Wednesday, September 20 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver
Date TBD (after September 20) | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions

Wednesday, November 29 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver

Cost: \$500 per person for both PD sessions and On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching

Target Audience: Teachers in years 1-3 of teaching, Interventionists who teach larger groups of students, and anyone who is looking to improve their instructional practices in the classroom

Description: In this series of professional development sessions (one includes an on-site observation and instructional coaching segment), participants will engage in a variety of effective instructional strategies to practice and then implement in the classroom. Research states that instructional strategies need to be practiced over 20 times in order to become an automatic part of instructional practice. This workshop provides opportunities for practice, feedback and mentorship, planning and development of teaching routines, on-going support, and a risk-taking learning environment that supports teachers with a growth mindset.

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

Charter School Policy & Facility Summit

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, September 25

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada

Cost: League Members: \$90 per person | Non-Members: \$130 per person | New School Developers*: \$50 per person.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Description: The 2017 Charter School Policy and Facility Summit will provide charter school leaders with the option of attending sessions related to policy and legal topics or facilities management and financing. This is an opportunity for charter school leaders to:

- Obtain important information about ongoing policy, legal updates and issues affecting their individual charter school and the sector at large
- Hear from legislators and State Board of Education members on issues these decision makers believe will impact the upcoming legislative session
- Share with League staff issues impacting their school and education community
- Gain valuable information about all stages of the facilities and financing process, from small projects to large construction and how to prepare your leadership for best practice decision making regarding facilities projects
- Learn about local and national stakeholders and experts in the areas of charter school policy, legal and facilities issues will be present to share their expertise and knowledge
- Determine outcomes from the Colorado Charter School Facilities Initiative Survey, and how this data will impact policy and technical assistance from the League and others in the sector

Agenda: Coming soon.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, September 15.

Formative and Summative Assessment Cohort

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note: Registration and payment covers three separate events.**

Please make sure you can attend each one.**

Dates/Times:

Wednesday, September 27 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, November 8 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, December 13 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Cost: League Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions | Non-Members: \$500 per person for all three sessions and \$200 for each additional attendee for all three sessions

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

Note: Lunch will be provided at each session

Target Audience: Teachers, Specialists, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists, Administration

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will build background knowledge creating and using effective formative and summative assessment practices in their classroom. Attendees will be asked to bring assessment data, sample assessments, school-based lesson plans, and student work samples. In each of the sessions, participants will:

- Build background knowledge on various types of assessments
- Plan and implement assessment practices to support quality instruction
- Create structures for systematic checks for understanding
- Create quality criteria to discover what you want to learn from the assessment

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, September 22.

2017 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Thursday, September 28

Time: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Cost: \$45.00 plus registration fees added at checkout

Location: Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton

Description: The School Safety Resource Center team will meet on September 28 to present a day of training on child sexual abuse prevention. This annual symposium assists school professionals, communities and law enforcement in identifying, preventing, responding to and reporting child sexual abuse. Expert presenters will train on trauma-informed practices, current research and trends, and pertinent legislation. Be sure to attend this important and supportive event that is open to the public! Watch for registration information on future E-Updates.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, September 1.

Deconstructing Bias: Creating Equity in Schools - Annual Educator's Conference

Hosted by the Colorado Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (CO-NAME)

Date: Friday, September 29

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: \$100 per person

Location: Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E 128th Avenue, Thornton

Description: Learn about the national and local efforts to deconstruct bias for staff, students and families as a community.

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

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