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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

December 2016



Welcome

Dear New School Developers,

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 learned 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](#) to 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 scheduled a face to face meeting with us yet, please do so at your convenience!

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[New School Resources and Links](#)
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Phases of School Development

PHASES OF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT		
Planning Phase (Typically 12 Months PLUS)	Startup Phase (or "Year-0" Ranges from 6-14 Months Depending on Authorizer)	
<i>Early Exploration and Establishing Need/Support</i> <i>Community Outreach and Establishing a Founding Team</i> <i>Application Development and Ongoing Community Outreach</i>	<i>Application Approval and Contract Negotiations with Authorizer</i> <i>Procurement of School Leader, Facility, Insurance, Materials, Board and Staff Trainings, etc.</i> <i>Ongoing Development: Academic Program, Policies, Handbooks, Student Recruitment, Internal Systems, etc.</i>	Implementation Phase (Opening Day through 3 to 5 Yrs. / Until a School Reaches Full Enrollment) <i>Executing all of the Pieces that are in the Application and Agreements Made in the Contract</i> <i>Growing the School to Capacity</i> <i>Establishing the School Culture</i> <i>School Accountability</i> <i>Ongoing Professional Development for the Staff and Training for the Board</i>

Planning Phase: Tips and Resources

Spring Application Cycle Information

If you are planning to submit an application to an authorizer in the spring of 2017, please contact us immediately to set up your two-part application review. The League's comprehensive, two-part application review process has helped countless groups revise and refine their application before submitting it to their authorizer. It is an eight week process and requires an approved [Stage 5 Planning Grant application](#) before the review can begin. Please email [Kathy Zlomke](#) or call her at 303-989-5356, ext.104 to schedule your review.

Charter School Startup Plan: Phases 0-2

This resource addresses charter public schools at their very earliest stage of development all the way through application submission. The [Phase 0-2 Startup Plan](#) guides developing groups in navigating the vast and complex tasks and activities that go into developing a charter public school and is structured so that groups can see the ideal timing of each task and keep track of who is responsible for each activity.

Tips and Resources for Any Phase of Development

Healthy Schools

Are you interested in helping to create a healthy school but not sure where to begin? The Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) can help by providing access to a wide range of resources to assist schools in creating and supporting a healthier school culture. [Click here](#) to access CEI's tools that will help guide your school's health and wellness journey. See below for additional healthy school resources:

[Healthy Schools Best Practices Guide](#)

[Healthy Schools Relevant Research](#)

[Making the Case for Healthy Schools](#)

[Assessing Your School](#)

Marketing and Educating Your Community

Charter Schools: Part of the Public School Family

The Colorado League of Charter Schools launched a public awareness campaign to help educate the community about charter public schools. We encourage you to visit the campaign [website \(www.charterpublic.org\)](http://www.charterpublic.org) and share it with your school community including prospective families.

Stand Out: A School Guide to Marketing

An important part of ensuring that Colorado children get the quality education they deserve is letting them know about the options available to them. [Stand Out: A Guide to School Marketing](#) includes tips and tricks on spreading the word about your school to the community.

Startup Phase: Tips and Resources

Post-Approval: Resource of the Month

[Charter School Startup Plan: Phase 3](#). This resource guides newly approved charter schools through the variety of tasks that are involved as you move your charter school from theory to reality. From hiring a Head of School to purchasing equipment, this [startup plan](#) will help you understand the steps involved in turning the charter application into a charter school. If your charter has recently been approved, be sure to view this webinar, [Negotiating a Charter School Contract](#). Also, please contact us if you are in need of a list of legal counsel experienced in assisting charter schools through this next big milestone in your school's development.

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!

Community Presentation Resources

- Video: <http://coloradoleague.org/?page=aboutcharterschool>
- 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/chartecalendar>

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-1 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 [New School Development department](#) to inquire further. Please continue to check the [League Calendar](#) for upcoming trainings.

LightSail Lunch & Learn

Hosted by LightSail

Date: Tuesday, December 13

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Location: Virginia Village Library Denver, 1500 S. Dahlia St., Denver

Cost: Free

Description: Join LightSail for an upcoming Lunch & Learn! LightSail invites Colorado educators to learn how LightSail's digital literacy platform personalizes the reading experiences for students and enhances instruction for educators.

About LightSail: LightSail is the adaptive reading platform that helps students, classrooms, and school districts exceed their literacy goals. Schools use LightSail to support independent reading, small group work, and whole-class instruction. LightSail is one of the fastest growing literacy solutions in K-12 and is one of the only applications to receive a 5-star rating by Common Sense Media two years in a row.

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

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

****Note:** Registration and payment covers three separate "events". Please make sure you can attend each one before registering.**

Dates/Times/Locations:

- Tuesday, January 10 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver
- Dates TBD | On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching Sessions
- Wednesday, March 15 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: \$500 per person for both PD sessions and On-Site Observation and Instructional Coaching; Non-Members: \$600 per person.

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 that includes an on-site observation and instructional coaching session, 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 instruction practice. This takes 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 for more information and to register.](#)

Deadline: Monday, January 9.

Charter Communicators Network Meeting

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, January 12

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$25 per person; Non-Members: \$75 per person

Note: 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.

Topic: Telling your school's story.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 10.

Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, January 16

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: This workshop will apply research-based strategies for teaching adult learners to support teachers in learning how to structure, plan, and lead effective professional development workshops. This session will build upon the instructional leaders' capacity to lead school-based PD sessions in their areas of expertise.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, January 12.

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, January 17

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 for each additional attendee.

Description: With the growing population of English Language learners (ELL) 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 workshop will also focus on instructional strategies for English Language learners of varying levels.

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.
- Instructional research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your classroom.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, January 13.

Formative and Summative Assessment Practices

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates/Times:

- Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 101 | Friday, January 20 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 102 | Thursday, February 9 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Formative and Summative Assessment Practices 103 | Friday, March 3 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$300 per person for all three sessions. | Non-Members: \$400 per person for all three sessions | \$200 for each additional attendee.

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

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

various types of assessments, how to plan and implement assessment practices to support quality instruction, create structures for systematic checks for understanding, and creating quality criteria to discover what you want to learn from the assessment. Lunch will be provided for each of the three sessions.

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

Please make sure you can attend each one.**

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, January 18.

2017 Colorado Core Knowledge Network Conference

Hosted by Swallows Charter Academy

Date: Friday, February 17

Location: Swallows Charter Academy, 278 S. McCulloch Blvd., Pueblo West

Cost: \$30 per person

Description: Make a plan to join us for a day of learning and networking!

- Presentations by teachers from across the state
- Round table sessions for teachers and administrators
- Networking opportunities to meet other teachers and administrators

Registration and Information: [Click here](#) to download the event flier.

[Click here](#) to download the event registration form.

2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

Empowering Tomorrow's Superheroes

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, February 23 - Friday, February 24

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

Cost: Special discounted pricing for new school developing groups

Description: The Colorado Charter Schools Conference is one of the most comprehensive professional development opportunities for new and veteran charter public school staff, boards, administrators and teachers.

After attending the Conference, you will feel:

- Able to leap tall building in a single bound thanks to knowledge from over 60 breakout sessions.
- More powerful than a locomotive with your new network of over 800 charter professionals and experts.
- Faster than the speed of light and ready to empower Tomorrow's Superheroes.

Registration and Information: www.cocharterconference.org

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