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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](mailto:info@coloradoleague.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*

## NEW SCHOOL NEWS

### February 2017



#### Welcome

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!

Lori Ventimiglia, Director, New School Development  
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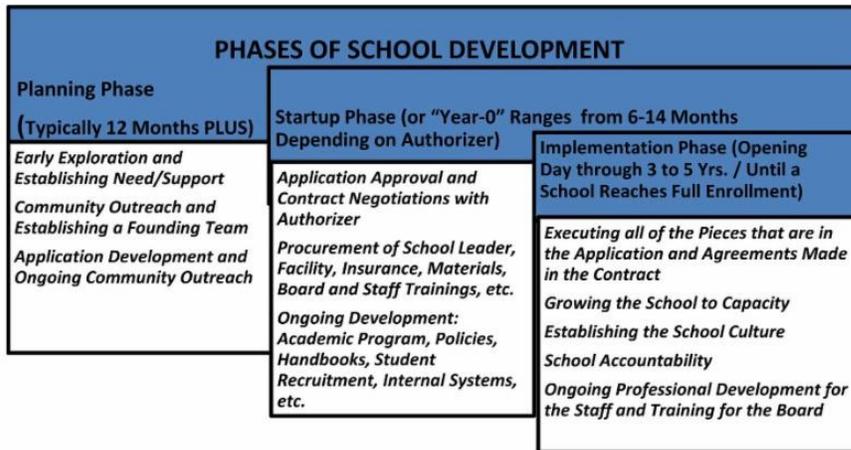
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 Information and Links](#)

## Phases of School Development



## 2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

*No matter what phase of development your school is in, be sure to attend the 2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference!*

**[REGISTER TODAY!](#) (this event will sell out!)**

### 2017 Colorado Charter School Conference

#### ***Empowering Tomorrow's Superheroes***

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Thursday, February 23 - Friday, February 24

**Location:** Omni Interlocken Resort, 500 Interlocken Boulevard, Broomfield

**Description:** The Colorado Charter Schools Conference is the largest gathering of the Colorado charter public school community. The event features over 60 breakout sessions including a kickoff workshop designed specifically for new school developers. Conference sessions cover a wide range of charter related topics, such as school leadership, teacher effectiveness, governance, finance, human resources, legal issues, facilities, and more. Join over 700 attendees at the Colorado Charter Schools Conference to learn and share best practices in all areas of a charter school, from the classroom, to the business office, to the board room, and more. Meet other new school developers, hear about lessons learned from those who have already opened a school and attend sessions in all areas of charter school governance and operations to better develop a quality application!

*Planning Grants available for new school developers who wish to attend the Conference! Please contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) immediately if you are interested.*

## Startup Phase Schools: Upcoming Job Fairs

### **Core Knowledge and Classical School Job Fair**

*Hosted by Vanguard Classical School*

**Date:** Saturday, March 4

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Vanguard Classical School, East Campus, 17101 E. Ohio Drive, Aurora

**Description:** Vanguard Classical School is hosting an Educators' Job Fair. We are targeting candidates interested in working for Core Knowledge and Classical Schools in our state. You will have the opportunity to join up to 24 schools in meeting and interviewing highly qualified candidates.

**Registration:** [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Schools and vendors wishing to participate please register by February 27th.

## 9th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair

*Hosted by The Center for Professional Development at Peak to Peak Charter School*

**Date:** Saturday, March 18

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Peak to Peak Charter School, 800 Merlin Drive, Lafayette

**Description:** This is the largest teacher job fair in Colorado exclusively for charter schools and presents an excellent opportunity for schools and teaching candidates to participate in face-to-face interviews and discuss career opportunities. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and schools come from Colorado and surrounding states. Over 50 charter schools and 400 teacher candidates attend this annual event.

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

For more information, please contact Jen Dausvardis at [jen@CPDcolorado.org](mailto:jen@CPDcolorado.org) with any questions or to be added to the general mailing list.

## Lotus School for Excellence Job Fair

*Hosted by Lotus School for Excellence*

**Date:** Saturday, April 8

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Lotus School for Excellence, 11001 E. Alameda Avenue, Aurora

**Description:** Meet with and interview highly qualified teaching candidates. Conduct face-to-face interviews with dozens of teaching candidates. Present the benefits of your school and career opportunities to experienced teachers and recent graduates. Gain exposure for your school.

**Registration:** [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

## Planning Phase: Mark Your Calendar

### Save the Date: Charter School Boot Camp

*Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice and the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, April 5, Thursday, April 6, and Friday, April 7

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** The Independence Institute, 727 E. 16th Avenue, Denver

**Cost:** \$100 per attendee (cost includes all three days)

**Description:** The grand bargain for charter public schools is accountability in exchange for autonomy. If charter planning teams are going to open and operate a quality school that is accountable to their

stakeholders and has the autonomy to self-govern, they have to understand the critical elements of starting a charter school well before they receive a charter or apply for the CCSP (Colorado Charter School Program) grant.

This training is designed to support planning teams, at all stages of application writing, in gaining a clear picture of the realities of opening and operating a school, as well as, to support teams in finding the gaps within their plan and team.

This three-day workshop looks at essential aspects of developing a charter school application, calling on expert presenters and providing supplemental resources to assist the charter school development team. Planning teams will leave the training with information, strategies and resources necessary to develop a strong application that will ultimately lay the foundation for a quality charter school. Registration will open soon.

## Tips for Planning Phase

### Establishing Need

Establishing need and understanding the community in which you hope to start a school is a critical early step in charter school development. Additionally, it is incumbent upon a developing group to answer the question "Why this school, in this community, with this model and these students at this time?" While outreach to potential families will be an ongoing pursuit throughout the development of the school, the following research and outreach practices will help you answer those questions and are important to conduct early in the process:

- The founding committee has adequately researched the community in which the charter school will exist; has knowledge of the demographics, cultural and academic needs; and has interviewed a variety of community members to verify the need and desire for the charter school in the community.
- The founding committee has adequately researched the student population to be served to understand their educational needs and what services are currently in place to meet those needs.
- The founding committee proactively develops a relationship with the charter authorizer. This relationship is initiated by notifying the authorizer of the group's intent to apply for a charter and is maintained throughout the application process.
- The founding committee seeks guidance from the authorizer and actively works to understand the authorizer's expectations.
- The founding committee is made up, in part, of community members who reside in the district/community that the school will be proposing to locate.

## Tips for Startup Phase

### Conducting Sound Due Diligence

From consultants and counsel to playground equipment and the building itself, you will need to be a savvy consumer as you create your school. Below is a list important steps you will want to employ as you conduct your due diligence for purchases big and small:

- Consider the nature of your school, staff organization and the

business opportunity under consideration to determine the parties involved in the due diligence process. **Involve your team**, including anyone with legal and financial expertise or expertise in the pertinent area (such as real estate or construction), where appropriate.

- Contact [Tiffany Kallevik](#) at the **Colorado League of Charter Schools** to explore if the provider in consideration has any involvement with the League's vendor programs: 1) [Trusted Partners](#), 2) [Preferred Service Providers](#), or 3) [Charter Marketplace participants](#).
- Request that the vendor in consideration provide **company information** regarding their experience with charter schools, their activities, accomplishments, products, performance and/or results.
- Get pricing and detailed product/service specifications **in writing**.
- **Review financial statements**, business plans and other related documents.
- Check references! **Talk to other charter schools** that have used the provider in consideration. The League can help you make these connections!
- Select random **samples of projects** and evaluate the selection for information, including performance, timeliness of completion, budget to actual, and any warranty service needed and performed.

## 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**

- 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.**

### **Family, School, and Community Partnering High Impact Strategies: Communicating and Designing Homework "Two-Way"**

*The Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit*

**Date:** Monday, February 13 - Monday, February 27

**Location:** Online via Moodle

**Cost:** Various Credit Options: Adams State University (for a fee) or Continuing Education Hours (free of charge) or Auditing (free of charge)

**Description:** This course provides information, resources, and skills in developing effective reciprocal communication and homework practices, which can improve student achievement. Application to site or situation is a focus.

**Target Audience:** Preschool - Grade 12 General and Special Educators, Counselors, Related Service Providers, Higher Education Faculty

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

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

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, February 13

**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, February 10.

## **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.

## **Reimagine Your Resources for Charter Schools**

*Hosted by RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching)*

**Date:** Wednesday, February 22

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** RAFT, 3827 Steele Street, Unit C, Denver

**Cost:** Free (wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided)

**Description:** Join RAFT for a celebratory evening to learn about Resource Area for Teaching and their professional development opportunities! You'll

experience RAFT first-hand through:

- A Q&A session with a panel of charter school educators and administrators
- A tour of RAFT's facility
- Visiting action stations featuring content-rich, problem-solving activities
- Networking

**Panelists:** Kate Sneed from RiseUp Academy, Heather Collins from Downtown Denver Expeditionary School and Keith Ouweneel from Crown Point Academy

**Registration:** [Click here to view invite and RSVP](#).

## **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](http://www.cocharterconference.org)

### **Governance Webinars: Recruitment and Oversight**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Charter Board Partners*

**Date:** Thursday, March 2

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Free

**Description:** The Charter Board Partners and the Colorado League of Charter schools would like to present you with an opportunity to view governance webinars relating to oversight of a governance board and recruitment of governance board members. You will have the ability to view the webinars at your convenience as they are both recorded for review. We will be offering a conference call should you have any questions after viewing the webinar(s). The call will occur on Thursday, March 2 (see instructions below) from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Please feel free to call in to receive guidance and support.

**Registration:** Deadline: Wednesday, March 1.

[Click here to view the Governance Recruitment webinar](#)

[Click here to view the Governance Oversight webinar](#)

On Thursday, March 2 between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM, feel free to call in to the conference line to ask any questions you may have:

1-800-977-8002

Participant code: 577658#

### **Charter School Teacher Summit**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, May 5

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**Location:** Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

**Cost:** Early Bird (ends April 3) League Members and New School Developers: \$150 per person | Non-Members: \$175 per person.

**Target Audience:** Teachers, Educators, Paraprofessionals, Teacher Assistants

**Description:** During the Summit, attendees will actively engage in a variety of instructional and academic topics that are unique to all teachers including paraprofessionals, aides, and academic support staff. Attendees will:

Select from a variety of topics that you'd like to explore during the event. Share your expertise, exchange ideas and learn new concepts/strategies. Network and build relationships with other educators while learning from educational experts in the field.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). Deadline: Friday, April 14.

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