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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 2018



#### 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 learned 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 possess 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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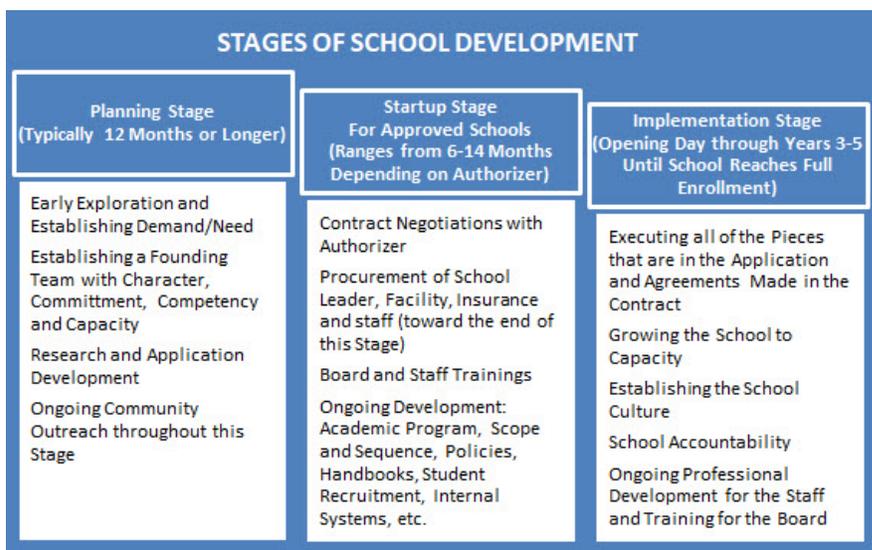
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#### Contact Us

Colorado League of Charter Schools  
New Schools Office  
Lori Ventimiglia  
Kathy Zlomke  
303-989-5356

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## Stages of School Development



## Announcements for all Stages of Development



### 2018 Colorado Charter Schools Conference - Register Today!

*Presented by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Thursday, March 1 - Friday, March 2

**Location:** Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Spruce St., Denver

**Description:** The Colorado Charter Schools Conference is the largest annual professional development and networking opportunity for Colorado charter schools. There are over 60 breakout sessions - many that are at the 101 level for new school developers! The conference sessions cover a wide range of charter related topics - 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, network with experienced charter operators and attend sessions in all areas of charter school governance and operations to better develop a quality application.

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

### The 10th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair

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

**Date:** Saturday, March 17

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM (School representatives and vendors: set-up is from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM Teacher candidates: interview sign-ups are from 8:30 AM -9:30 AM | Interviews are from 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)

**Cost:** The event is free for teacher candidates. Schools may purchase a booth for a fee.

**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 to discuss career opportunities. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and schools from Colorado and surrounding states will attend. Approximately 70 charter schools and as many as 500 teacher candidates attend this annual event.

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

## Planning Grant Changes

Please note that the planning grant application process has changed and they are no longer open sources on our website. In order to access a grant application and rubric you will need to contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to discuss eligibility and which planning grant might be most suitable for your team at this time. The grants themselves have also changed; there are now five separate grants that total \$16,000. See graphic below for details and please carefully review the [Planning Grant Guidelines](#).



Tips and Resources for Schools in the Planning Stage

## Important Reminder! Spring Application Cycle Information

If you are planning to submit an application to an authorizer this spring, 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 they submit it to their authorizer. The review is an eight week process and requires an approved Stage 4 Planning Grant application before the review can begin (unless you choose to pay the \$1,000 fee for this service). Please email [Kathy Zlomke](mailto:Kathy.Zlomke@coloradocharter.org) or call her at 303-989-5356 ext. 104 to schedule your review.

## The Charter School Act

If you are in the early stages of starting a charter school, it is important to familiarize yourself with the [Colorado Charter School Act](#) to garner a clear understanding of the law that governs the ability to start and operate a charter school in Colorado.

## Planning Stage: Mark Your Calendar

### CDE Charter School Boot Camp

*Hosted by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)*

**Dates:** Wednesday, April 18, Thursday, April 19, and Friday, April 20

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

**Location:** Independence Institute, 727 East 16th Avenue, Denver

**Note:** Each day covers separate material. Attendance for all three days is not required, but it is highly recommended that someone from your planning team attend each day.

**Description:** The grand bargain for charter 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.

Plan on joining this foundational training which is designed to support planning teams, at all stages of application writing, in gaining a clear picture of the realities for opening and operating a school, as well as, to support teams in finding the gaps in 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:** [Click here to register](#). Register by 8:00 AM on Friday, April 13. Please contact [CDE](#) directly for questions and more information.

## Tips and Resources for Any Phase of Development

### 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 of steps you'll want to employ as you conduct your due diligence for purchases big and small. They include:

- 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), when appropriate.
- Contact [Tiffany Kallevik](#) or [Griselda Nanfito](#) at the **Colorado League of Charter Schools** to see if the provider in consideration has any involvement with the League's vendor programs: 1) Group

Purchasing Partners, 2) Preferred Service Providers, or 3) Marketplace participants.

- Request that the organization 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.

## Marketing and Communications

Did you know that the League offers a number of supports and resources for your unique marketing and communications needs? Services included with membership are the following:

- Marketing/Communications Consultation and Brainstorming
- Crisis Communications Assistance
- Access to Media Lists
- Co-Op Advertising Opportunities
- Charter Communicators Network Meetings

For more information about any of these services, please contact [Kerri Barclay](#), Communications Manager, at 303-989-535, ext. 125.

## 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!

**Stay Informed! Be sure to receive these informative publications from the League:**

- Business Office Perspectives (monthly e-newsletter for business managers)
- Friday Wire (weekly e-newsletter with links to charter related news articles)
- Legislative Updates (bi-weekly e-newsletter during the legislative session January - May)
- Professional Development Insider (monthly e-newsletter of upcoming trainings and events)
- School Safety Awareness Newsletter (monthly e-newsletter of resources to help improve the safety of school environments)
- The League Monthly Update (monthly e-newsletter that will keep member schools informed of the League's work and how we are supporting charter schools in our state)  
[Click here to subscribe.](#)

## 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.coloradoinitiative.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.**

### The 10th Annual Charter School Teacher Job Fair

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

**Date:** Saturday, March 17

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM (School representatives and vendors: set-up is from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM | Teacher candidates: interview sign-ups are from 8:30 AM -9:30 AM | Interviews are from 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)

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**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 to discuss career opportunities. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and schools from Colorado and surrounding states will attend. Approximately 70

charter schools and as many as 500 teacher candidates attend this annual event.

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

## Close Reading One Day Professional Development Session

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, March 21

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$175 per person | Non-Members: \$225 per person | \$125 for each additional attendee

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

**Meals:** A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

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

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

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, March 16.

## Effective Practices for Instructional Coaching 102 Data Meetings

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, March 22

**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: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

**Meals:** A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Description:** If you benefited from Instructional Coaching session 101 this fall, this is the next step to enhance your instructional coaching practice. Participants will learn effective methods for data coaching. Learned coaching protocols will include one-on-one weekly student analysis meetings and teacher team data meetings. These protocols include:

- precisely defining mastery for a standard/objective through scripting an exemplar,
- sorting student work based on that exemplar,
- and creating a re-teach plan that addresses the highest leverage misconceptions identified in the data analysis.

This workshop will also provide tools and resources for ensuring accountability loops and tracking teacher growth.

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday march 19. Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

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

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3/9/2018

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