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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

January 2017



Welcome

Annual Quality Outcomes and Targeted Supports Edition

Dear New School Developers,

We are excited to continue to support you in 2017 with a vast array of services that we've been providing new charter school developers for over 20 years!

Our first newsletter of 2017 provides an overview of the [Six Quality Outcomes](#) schools should have in place by the end of Year-One. It also outlines the targeted new school supports that the Colorado League of Charter Schools provides to help you attain these outcomes. From the earliest stages of development through the end of Year-One, Kathy and I strive to meet your needs with essential and timely supports every step along the way -- with the vast majority of services being free! We hope that you find this information helpful and, as always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Happy New Year!

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2017 Colorado Charter Schools Conference

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REGISTER TODAY!**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 Kick-Off 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.

[Links](#)[Planning Grant](#)[Information and](#)[Links](#)**Important Reminder****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 (unless you choose to pay the \$1,000 fee for this service). Please email [Kathy Zlomke](#) or call her at 303-989-5356 ext.104 to schedule your review.

Six Quality Outcomes: Planning Backwards from the End of Year-One

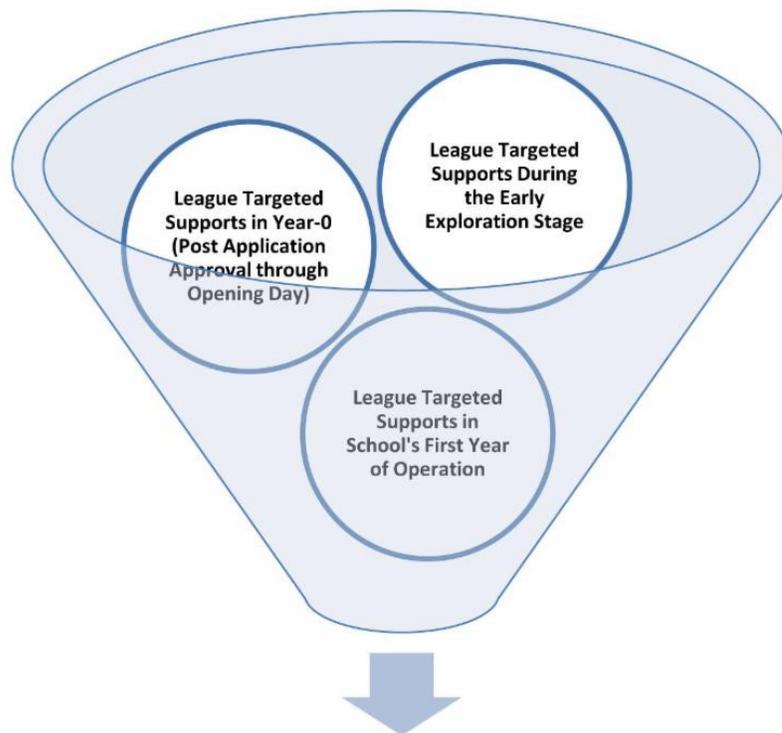
- **Qualified and Competent School Leadership:** School leadership has instilled confidence from teachers, parents, board members and students, and has effectively begun to implement many components of school proposal.
- **Sound Operational Practices:** Foundations for strong fiscal management and effective business operations have been established and are being adhered to.
- **Efficient Governance:** The Board has obtained initial training, is committed to ongoing training, understands roles and

responsibilities and adheres to state statutes and board policies with fidelity.

- **Effective Academics & Instruction:** Curriculum and materials are in place and being effectively implemented and instructional staff engages students for optimal learning using Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
- **Robust Performance Management Plan:** Data from a Student Information System, Data Management System and Interim Assessments are being used effectively to assess and guide instruction and school culture.
- **Clear, Mission-Driven School Culture:** A strong, mission-driven culture has been established and evidence of the culture can be easily observed throughout most aspects of the school.

The League believes that these Quality Outcomes are essential to have in place at the end of your school's first year. As such, we provide targeted supports at each stage of development to help accomplish this.

Six Quality Outcomes by the End of Year-One



Six Quality Outcomes by the End of Year-One

Below is a list of targeted supports that the League provides new schools from the earliest stages of charter school development to the end of Year-One.

Targeted Supports in the Early Exploration Stage and Application Development:

- Face to face/phone meetings with developer/team to assess capacity, discuss authorizer landscape, statutory requirements, application process, resources, etc.

- Planning timeline documents, model and sample application sections, budget templates and other resources
- Ongoing technical support, as needed
- Planning grants designed to significantly contribute to the actual charter application
- Extensive two-stage application review with verbal and written feedback
- Mock interview with verbal and written feedback for identified teams
- Fiscal sponsor services
- Calendar of critical trainings and events
- Monthly newsletter

Targeted Supports in Year-0 (Post Application Approval through Opening):

- Opening checklist, purchasing calendars, sample contract language, etc.
- Access to the League's online [charter school job board](#)
- [Directory listing](#) of your school on the League's website
- [Calendar](#) of critical trainings and events
- Brokering connections and collaborations
- Face to face meetings as needed
- ***Onboarding Your New Charter School - A League Training for Newly Approved Schools:**
 - Designed to assist newly (and nearly) approved schools in navigating through the complexities of Year-0. This training presents a clear path to effectively transition your charter application from the theoretical proposal that it currently is into a viable organization. Schools will identify next steps and gain the tools, resources and the understanding necessary to successfully open and operate their school.
 - Featuring "Meet the League": A League Services Overview, Staff Introduction and Office Hours for Customized, School-Specific Needs.

Targeted Supports in Year-One (Opening Through End of First Year of Operation):

- Connection point to other League staff/departments
- Document reviews: board agendas and minutes, financial transparency posts, etc.
- Model documents
- Calendar of critical trainings and events: governance, finance, MSST, data teams, UIP, SPF, assessments, etc.
- Critical connections: administrator, board and business manager cohorts, etc.
- Readiness checklist review (see survey below)
- ****Year-One Spring Visit--The Culmination of the League's Targeted New School Supports:** At the end of Year-One, League staff will schedule a visit to your school to conduct a friendly review of critical documents, observe classes and meet with school leadership, teachers, parents, students and board members. Verbal and written feedback will be provided following the visit. For recipients of the CSP grant, this visit will help prepare for the required site visit (if in year 2 of the grant) or the extensive CSSI visit in the following year. The League's Year-One spring visit was developed to closely align with the [CSSI visit](#) which was created to

ensure that schools set a course for self-improvement in the early years. The Year-One spring visit is a valuable process to undergo whether or not you are a CSP grant recipient.

- **The "I Don't Have Time for This Survey" Survey for Year-One Schools!** We know that you are busy, but this survey is actually your friend! This is where we ask you to trust us. We have seen so many schools in their first year miss some of the critical pieces that are addressed herein and this is our way of making sure they are on your radar. Also, the answers to this survey will help inform our spring visit and prepare you for the CSSI visit. Please make sure that a Head of School (or Academic Leader), Business Manager and Board President all complete this survey. Each school that fills out the survey will have access to their individual report of the survey findings and can use it as a tool to track their progress. **Also, if you complete the survey by January 25, you will be entered into a drawing to win one free two-day admission to the Colorado Charter Schools Conference.**

***Information about the Onboarding Your Charter School training will be announced soon for schools approved to open in 2018.**

**** Year-One spring visits are, of course, voluntary but are strongly recommended. We will reach out to schools in February to set them up.**

Resources for Every Stage of Development

New School Development Webinar Series

The League offers a full slate of webinars that are available for your viewing anytime on our website! These webinars are free, and each focuses on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application. Each webinar runs approximately an hour and half. The webinars are listed to follow a logical progression of school development. For example, if you are brand new at this, start at the beginning with an "[Introduction to Writing a Charter School Application](#)." If you are further along in the process, you can choose any webinar that might be helpful. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate! View the webinars [here](#).

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/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.

Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools **

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.](#)

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

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.

Bilingual Legal Night

Hosted by the Ricardo Flores Magón Academy in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), Castaneda Law and MSU Family Literacy, and Regis University

Date: Thursday, January 12

Time: 4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: Magon Academy, 5301 Lowell Blvd., Denver

Cost: Free and open to the public

Note: Childcare, snacks and parking provided

Description: During this event, legal experts will discuss deportation defense and family-based decisions, DACA, DAPA and Immigration Relief as well as how you can support undocumented members of the community. The panel will answer questions including how to support those struggling in the new political climate and what sister organizations can support the community. [Click here for the flyer.](#)

Advocacy Training

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter School

Date: Saturday, January 14

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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

Cost: Free

Note: Meals will not be provided but coffee and snacks will be available.

Description: Learn how to effectively speak up for charter public school students! Participants will walk away with a number of tools and techniques for effective charter school advocacy both within their community and at the state level. All charter school supporters - parents, teachers, administrators, board members, former students, etc. - with a passion for advancing the cause of high-quality schools for all Colorado children are

strongly encouraged to attend.

Can't make the drive to Denver? Remote access will be available.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, January 11.

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.

Registration and payment covers three separate events. Please make sure you can attend each one.

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

Global Education Symposium

Hosted by EF Education First and Learning Forward Colorado

Date: Saturday, January 21

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: EF Education First, 1755 Blake Street, Suite 300, Denver

Cost: Free (this event is free to administrators and teachers working with grades 6-12, but space is limited). Participants will earn 6.5 hours of free Professional Development Credit.

Description: Please join EF Education First, Learning Forward Colorado, and administrators and teachers from around the state for an engaging day of workshops focused on developing global citizenship, leadership, and cultural competency in your school community. During the day you'll interact with global education experts, hear from students about the successful impact of educational travel, examine models of effective global education programs, and explore how to help students effectively access and analyze cultural diversity within our world.

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

Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, January 23

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 \$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 19.

School Choice Week Rally

Date: Thursday, January 26

Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Colorado State Capitol - West Steps, 200 E. Colfax Avenue,

Denver

Description: The Rally is a chance for students to celebrate school choice, participate in the [School Choice Week Dance](#), hear from students from a variety of school types, and hear from Colorado state legislators.

Help us make sure that charter public schools are well represented at this fun event. Transportation dollars are available!

Registration: If your school is interested in bringing a bus full (or more) of students, please contact Stacy Rader at srader@coloradoleague.org as soon as possible.

Business Manager Network Meeting

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

Date: Friday, January 27

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Denver Metro TBD

Cost: \$35 per person

Description: Each meeting includes the Business Manager 101 course for those with less than three years' experience, networking and troubleshooting for more experienced managers, and Responsive and Technical Expert presentations on key issues of relevance to all business managers.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, January 24.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, February 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Denver Metro TBD

Cost: \$25 per person

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:** Tuesday, January 31.

8 Critical Strategies for Compliant Special Education Programming

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 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 |

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:** Friday, February 3.

Specially Designed Instruction in Literacy

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 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 | Non-Members: \$100 per person and \$50 for each additional attendee

Description: Attend this workshop to understand the different cognitive processes of reading. Participants will be able to improve student achievement by implementing a continuous instructional inquiry cycle that includes:

- Teachers using various screeners to assess the different processes of reading.
- Teachers plotting and analyzing screening data to determine root cause gaps.
- Teachers triangulating data with other assessment and observational sources.
- Teachers prioritizing instruction through a problem solving process.
- Teachers implementing prioritized instruction and progress monitoring goals/objectives.
- Teachers reviewing progress monitoring and adjusting groupings and instructional plans.

In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of reading processes and building a stronger skill set in data-driven instruction, participants will learn instructional best practices and evidence-based programming options for specialized instruction in reading and writing.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, February 3.

PowerSchool: Report-Building Tools

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, February 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Cost: League Members: \$75 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$100 for one person and \$25 for each additional attendee.

Note: Please note that lunch is not provided but time is allotted and there are many options within walking distance.

Description: The three basic PowerSchool report-building tools (Form Letter, Report Card or Object Report) can be used to create unlimited customized forms such as labels, class lists, report cards, progress reports, certificates, enrollment forms, etc. This hands-on workshop will help you decide which tool is the best choice for various needs, and then walk you

through the basic features and functions of each. Participants will create reports using each tool. (Please note: we will not cover ReportWorks in this workshop.)

What to Bring: Your computer, admin log-in account that allowed access to Report Setup on a PowerSchool server.

Audience: Geared toward those who create standardized forms and letters for their schools.

Trainer: Nyssa Strom, Student Information Coordinator, Victory Preparatory Academy

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, February 7. Event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants.

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](#).

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

Colorado League of Charter Schools, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,
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