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COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*

## NEW SCHOOL NEWS

### July 2014



#### Welcome

New school developers at every stage of starting a school will find news and resources in this newsletter to better ensure that they develop a quality charter school. Never hesitate to contact Lori Ventimiglia and Kathy Zlomke in the New School Development office at the Colorado League of Charter Schools for questions, sample documents or other resources that you are looking for as you develop your school.

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#### CCSP Start-Up Grant Writers' Boot Camp

***This is a critical grant start-up grant that every new school should pursue. The training is required for start-up grant applicants and is scheduled 6-8 weeks before the grant application is due (p. 24 in the Guidebook). Click [here](#) to learn more.***

#### CCSP Tier 1 Start-Up Grant Writers Boot Camp

**Date:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Adams 12 Conference Center, Cottonwood Room, 1500 E 128th Ave, Thornton

**Cost:** \$20 per person - Please bring a personal check, business check, or

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#### Contact Us

Colorado League of  
Charter Schools  
New Schools Division  
[Lori Ventimiglia](#)  
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303-989-5356

money order made out to CDE with your name and school in the Memo.

**Meals:** Coffee and lunch

**Registration:** Click [here](#) to register by 8:00 AM on Tuesday, August 19. Participants who do not register online cannot be guaranteed meals or space in the meeting. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Focus on Governance

***Be sure to contact the [staff at the CDE Schools of Choice office](#) (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart>) to see if any of the following governance trainings are covered by your CSP grant.***

### **Best Practices in Charter School Governance**

Effective governance is critical to a charter school's success, and the League cannot stress enough the importance of having a well-trained board right out of the gate!

If your school is planning to open this fall and your school's governing board hasn't received any formal training, please contact us immediately to schedule your customized [Best Practices in Charter School Governance](#) workshop. This training introduces basic roles, responsibilities and general practices essential to creating and/or operating an effective charter school board.

The training is customized for each school via a pre-session survey and conference call in order to best meet the needs of your charter school board.

Topics may include the review of items such as legal responsibilities of boards and laws impacting board practice, basic board roles and responsibilities, board and school leader relationship, board recruitment, committees (work, structure and board oversight) evaluating the board and administration, developing essential operating documents, running effective meetings, school bylaws (and other foundational documents), compliance and much more.

**Audience:** Boards of new charter schools in year zero or year one. Also recommended for existing charter schools that have new board members and/or have not had the Best Practices training within the past two or three years.

**Cost:** Half Day: \$700 | Full Day \$1,100, plus cost of Governing Board Workbooks (costs may vary based on products and/or services provided).

**Scheduling:** Contact Joni Malli at [jmalli@coloradoleague.org](mailto:jmalli@coloradoleague.org) for more information or to schedule a training.

### **On-Site Performance Management Training for Boards**

This half-day training teaches charter school board members about their role in monitoring the academic program and results at their charter school.

This is a customized training that provides governing boards with tools and resources to assist in their role of appropriate oversight and evaluation. The focus of this session is on understanding student performance data, key questions board members should know how to answer, and how boards can establish sound practices in providing academic performance oversight and monitoring. Other topics typically included are key school performance expectations and measures as well as state and authorizer performance

expectations and measures.

**Audience:** This training is recommended for boards that have already received the Best Practices in Charter School Governance training.

**Scheduling:** Contact Joni Malli at [jmalli@coloradoleague.org](mailto:jmalli@coloradoleague.org) for more information (including cost) and to schedule a training.

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## Strategic Planning for Charter School Boards

Developing a sound strategic plan is key to supporting effective governance and leadership. Strategic plans range from specific goals such as facilities acquisition to more general purposes such as guiding the school's strategic priorities and continuous improvement.

The League can assist your charter school with items such as strategic planning process design and facilitation, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses, transition from founding board to policy setting board, and identifying key performance indicators, measures, metrics and targets.

**Audience:** Charter school boards in the process of creating a strategic plan

**Scheduling:** Contact Joni Malli at [jmalli@coloradoleague.org](mailto:jmalli@coloradoleague.org) for information on pricing, to discuss your board's specific needs and to schedule a training.

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## Board Fundamentals

*Hosted by the Colorado Department of Education, Schools of Choice Office*

**Date:** Friday, September 12

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

**Location:** TBD

**Description:** This training is offered twice a year in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education to support board members in providing a sound introduction to board practice and responsibilities, a refresher to continuing board members in board leadership roles, and to introduce school leaders to general charter school governing board practices and responsibilities.

**Registration:** More information and a link to registration is coming soon.

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## Charter School Board Transparency

Don't forget! Charter schools are required to abide by financial transparency and open records/sunshine law statutes from the moment they become a public entity. A school becomes a public entity on the day its charter contract is signed. For more information, read the [Financial Transparency Act](#).

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## Governing Board Best Practices

Many sample best practice documents for charter school governing boards are available [online](#), including information on the Open Meetings and Open Records laws (located part way down the page), and by contacting the League at [Charter411@coloradoleague.org](mailto:Charter411@coloradoleague.org) or 303-989-5356, ext. 115.

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## Charter Application Review

### Extensive Two-Part Application Review

If you are planning to submit an application to your district/authorizer in the

fall of 2014, we strongly encourage you to utilize the League's Application Review. This two-part process provides in-depth feedback on your charter application before you submit it to your district/authorizer.

The review must be scheduled to begin at least eight weeks prior to your district/authorizer application deadline so make sure to plan ahead! Please contact the League's [New School Development](#) department to learn more about this service and to schedule your review.

## Planning Grant Update

**All planning grant funds are currently depleted.** We are working to replenish these funds and will update our website as soon as we know more. If you would like to utilize our two-part Application Review process (which typically requires a Stage Five grant); please contact the League's New School Development department to discuss your options.

Please visit our [website](#) to access the Planning Grant guidelines and applications. Also be sure to contact the Lori Ventimiglia at [lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org](mailto:lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org) to determine eligibility as fund availability and grant requirements change often.

## Fiscal Sponsor Services

If you are a developing or newly approved school that wants to apply for grants and fundraise, but doesn't yet have a 501(c)3, please contact Lori Ventimiglia at [lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org](mailto:lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org) for information about Fiscal Sponsor services offered through the League.

## Professional Development Opportunities

The following Professional Development opportunities, hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools, are coming up in August and September 2014.

Click the links below for more information. Each event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants. We hope to see you at one or more of these upcoming events!

### August 2014

[August 1 - Data Teams Seminar](#)

[August 4-5 - Prioritizing State Standards](#)

[August 6-7 - Authentic Performance Assessments](#)

[August 7 - PowerSchool: Start of School Year Best Practices](#)

[August 11 - Response to Intervention: A Deep Dive Workshop](#)

### September 2014

[September 10 - Thinking Maps - Writing](#)

[September 10 - Webinar: SPED Services - Extend Your Reach](#)

[September 11 - Tech Talk Quarterly Networking Meeting](#)

[September 12 - Unified Improvement Planning \(UIP\) Intro Workshop](#)

[September 15 - UIP Workshop, Colorado Springs](#)

[September 18 - UIP Workshop, Denver](#)

[September 19 - PowerSchool: Preparing for October Count](#)

[September 29 - Illuminate Education Users Group Meeting](#)

## Colorado Charter School Policy & Facility Summit

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Monday, October 6

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

**Location:** Wellshire Event Center, 3333 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver

**Cost:** \$50 per person for schools that are members of the Colorado League of Charter Schools | \$75 per person for non-members. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Group discounts available.

**Description:** The Colorado Charter School Policy and Facility Summit will feature:

### 1. Policy

Attendees will learn about and examine some of the policy issues that will be likely targets for the 2015 legislative session that may affect their schools in coming years. Participants will also hear from policymakers and experts and have a direct voice in helping to shape the League's 2015 policy agenda.

### 2. Facilities

Attendees will learn best practices regarding school facility financing and navigating the facilities planning process. Charter school leaders have the opportunity to speak with school leaders that have been in their shoes and obtain valuable insights from experts. Additionally, school leaders will walk away from the Summit with resources and tools needed to: 1. Develop a plan to get to a permanent facility; 2. Understand the construction options for TI, Renovation, Temporary and Permanent Facilities; and 3. Maximize lending and finance opportunities.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** September 26.

## Information from CDE Schools of Choice Office

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>

The Colorado Department of Education administers the **Colorado Charter Schools Program** grant, which provides federal funding in Start-up and Implementation phases over a 3-year grant to new and significantly-expanding charter schools. Two application rounds (Tier I & Tier II) are offered each year, with the RFP, information and documents for this Start-up Grant available [here](#). See RFP for eligibility rules and application instructions.

## In Every Issue

The following three links are included in each newsletter as they are such valuable resources to keep on your radar:

### What is a Charter School?

Even 20 years into the life of charter schools in Colorado, it is amazing how many people don't really understand what charter schools are and that they are public schools. New and developing schools will find this video to be a great introduction at community meetings and other outreach efforts.



Video: What is a Charter School?

Additionally, the following link will be useful for you to remain focused on the facts in your community: <http://www.coloradoleague.org/colorado-charter-schools/charter-schools-fact-sheet.php>

#### **New School Development Resources**

<http://www.coloradoleague.org/audiences/developers.php> - This is the New School Development page of the League's website. There are sample model documents, upcoming events, information about grants and much more on this page. Check back frequently for updates!

#### **CDE Schools of Choice Events Page**

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/chartregstart.asp> - This is the events page for the Schools of Choice Unit at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). This site should also be checked frequently as there are always important and relevant workshops and seminars for developing schools offered by the CDE Schools of Choice Unit.

#### **League Professional Development Trainings**

If you are a new school opening this year, don't forget that the League offers important trainings to support you as you move into your implementation phase. See the link below for more information:

<http://www.coloradoleague.org/news-and-events/league-trainings.php>

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