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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 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

June 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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Financial Transparency/Open Records Laws

Financial Transparency Act/Open Records Laws

Don't forget! 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. See Financial Transparency Act:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/sfFinancialTransparency.htm>

Many sample best practice documents for charter school governing boards are available online at

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/guidebook/gov/index.htm> including information on the Open Meetings and Open Records laws located part way

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Contact Us

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down the page of the above link.

Planning Grant Updates

Planning Grant Updates

Denver Metro Area (Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Denver, Jeffco and Englewood) Developing Groups: Funds have been depleted for this region. We are working to replenish these funds and will update our website as soon as we know more. If you are in the Denver Metro Area and would like to utilize our two-part Application Review process (which typically requires a Stage 5 grant); please contact Lori Ventimiglia at lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org to discuss your options.

Developing Groups Outside the Metro Area:

Funds for groups who are outside of the Denver Metro Area are **almost depleted** and are currently being reserved for Stage 5 (Application Review) grants only.

Please visit our [website](#) to access the guidelines and applications, and be sure to contact the League's [New School Development](#) department to determine eligibility as fund availability and grant requirements change often.

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.

Newly Approved Schools

Several districts and the Colorado Charter Schools Institute hold a spring application cycle and most of the results are in. Denver Public Schools has approved an astonishing 12 charter schools this cycle; those schools and the new CSI school are listed below. These schools are slated to open in fall 2015.

- Banneker-Jemison STEM Academy-DPS (K-5)
- KIPP Colorado Far Northeast Elementary-DPS (K-4)
- KIPP Montbello Collegiate High School-DPS (9-12)
- Near Northeast Community Engagement School-DPS (6-8)
- REACH Charter School-DPS (ECE-5)
- Roots Elementary-DPS (K-5)
- STRIVE Prep Far Northeast Elementary School-DPS (K-5)
- STRIVE Prep Far Northeast High School-DPS (9-12)
- STRIVE Prep Southwest Middle School-DPS (6-8)
- Rocky Mountain Prep-Hampden Heights-DPS (ECE-5)
- Southwest Denver Community School-DPS (6-8-with 2017 consideration for high school approval)
- YouthBuild Charter High School-DPS (9-12)
- The Career Building Academy-CSI/Pueblo (Alternative Education Campus, ages 16-21)

Professional Development Opportunities

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

Click the links below for more information, or contact [Tisha Bouwmeester](#) with questions. Each event is contingent on a minimum of 10 registrants. We hope to see you at one of these upcoming events!

July 2014

[July 25 - Data Teams Seminar](#)

[July 28 - Math Design Collaboratives](#)

[July 29 - Thinking Maps - Writing](#)

[July 30-31 - Powerful Strategies for Response to Intervention](#)

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](#)

NOTE: Check with the staff at the CDE Schools of Choice office <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart> to see if any of the trainings listed above are covered with the CSP grant!

Board Fundamentals

Hosted by CDE Schools of Choice Unit

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 information is coming soon. For more information on CDE trainings, [click here](#).

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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