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COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
 CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

May 2016



Welcome

Dear New School Developers,

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 three 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](#) to 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 scheduled a face to face meeting with us yet, please do so at your convenience!

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Phases of New School Development

PHASES OF NEW SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT IN COLORADO

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<p>PLANNING PHASE: TYPICALLY 12 MONTHS (PLUS OR MINUS)</p>	<p>EARLY EXPLORATION AND ESTABLISHING NEED/SUPPORT</p>	<p>COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ESTABLISHING A FOUNDING TEAM</p>	<p>APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT AND ONGOING COMMUNITY OUTREACH</p>
<p>STARTUP PHASE: ALSO KNOWN AS "YEAR-0". RANGES FROM 6-14 MONTHS DEPENDING ON AUTHORIZER</p>	<p>APPLICATION APPROVAL AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUTHORIZER</p>	<p>PROCUREMENT OF: SCHOOL LEADER; FACILITY; INSURANCE; MATERIALS; BOARD AND STAFF TRAINING; ETC.</p>	<p>ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF: ACADEMIC PROGRAM; POLICIES; HANDBOOKS; STUDENT RECRUITMENT; INTERNAL SYSTEMS; ETC.</p>
<p>IMPLEMENTATION PHASE: OPENING THROUGH 3 TO 5 YRS. UNTIL A SCHOOL REACHES MATURITY (FULL ENROLLMENT)</p>	<p>EXECUTING ALL OF THE PIECES THAT ARE IN THE APPLICATION AND AGREEMENTS MADE IN THE CONTRACT</p>	<p>GROWING THE SCHOOL TO CAPACITY; ESTABLISHING THE SCHOOL CULTURE; SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY</p>	<p>ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE STAFF AND TRAINING FOR THE BOARD; ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM</p>

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Contact Us

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Planning Grants

Are you in the early stages of developing your charter application? Do you need funds to travel to conferences, visit schools that use the model you are exploring, launch marketing and student outreach campaigns or hire consultants to help you with the academic, legal or financial aspects of school start up? There are planning grants for that!

Are you in the later stages of charter application writing? Do you need funds to continue your outreach efforts, acquire the League's extensive [two-part application review](#), put the finishing touches on your application, and print the required hard copies of the application? There are planning grants for that too!

Has your charter application been submitted and/or approved? Do you need funds to hire legal counsel to help you with contract negotiations, pay the application fee for your 501(c)(3), recruit excellent school leadership and staff, bring in experienced [Governance Trainers](#) for your board or hire an architect for facilities planning? Yes, there are planning grants for that as well!

The League is able to offer developing groups [planning grants](#) thanks to two philanthropic organizations, the Anschutz Foundation and the Daniels Fund. The funding available to schools is limited to the amounts received by the League. There are no deadlines associated with these planning grants; grant proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. Groups must contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) at 303-989-5356 ext. 113 to determine eligibility before submitting an application.

Note: Planning grants for groups outside of the metro area have been temporarily depleted (metro area is defined as the following counties: All Adams Counties, Boulder, Douglas, Jefferson and Denver). If you live outside of these counties and wish to submit a planning grant, please check our [website](#) for updates or contact Lori Ventimiglia to discuss status of those funds.

New School Development Satisfaction Survey

It is our top priority to meet the needs of the new school developers we work with. If you have used our services and haven't completed this survey yet, we urge you to do so (it's a brief 10 minute survey). Please share with us what we are doing right and what we could be doing better. [Click here to complete the survey.](#)

New School Webinar Series

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is pleased to announce updates and new offerings in our free webinar series for new charter school developers. These 90-minute webinars are designed for people who are in the process of developing a charter school application; however, anyone is welcome to attend.

Each monthly webinar will focus on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application. All you need is a computer and internet access to participate! Remember you can always access archived webinars [here](#).

New Recorded Webinars:

Live Webinars:

Writing SMART Goals

Date: Tuesday, May 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: Webinar. Please use a valid email address when registering and the URL will be emailed to you before May 3.

Cost: Free

Description: Join us for an interactive webinar that will address critical insights in writing focused, rigorous goals for your charter school application.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) Deadline: Monday, May 2.

Recent New School Webinars You Might Have Missed:

[Facilities Financing: What You Need to Know](#)

[What you Need to Know About the State Assessment Transition, Accountability Timeline and the UIP for the 2015-16 School Year](#)

[Charter School Facilities Overview](#)

[Developing a Performance Management \(PM\) Strategy](#)

And stay tuned for our comprehensive, new Facilities Webinar Series!

Tips for Schools in the Planning Phase

Building your Team

Starting a school cannot be a solo endeavor! It is imperative to have a team of committed and hard-working people contributing to the wide variety of tasks related to school development. Your initial team will be considered a Steering or Founding Committee and some of these same people should transition over to the school's formal governing board upon having an approved charter application. When building your team make sure they are aligned with the mission and model of the school, let them know the amount of time and effort that will be required and look for people with a variety of skill sets such as the ones listed below:

- Organizational and Financial Management
- Community Development
- Facility/Project Management
- Academic/Education
- Business/Corporate
- Accounting
- Banking
- Fund Raising/Capital Campaign
- Law
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Public Relations

- Real Estate
- Community Resident
- Parent of Child that will Attend the School
- Latino/Culture Competency
- Technology

Tips for Schools in the Startup Phase

Searching for and Leasing Facilities

Check out this power point, [Leasing Facilities for Today's Students](#), to learn about Occupancy Lease versus Finance Lease, Finance Lease Distinctions, Facilities Options with the District, and Facilities Opportunities for charter schools. Also, be sure to view [this webinar](#) to help you in *Preparing to Find the Right Facility*.

Tips for Schools in the Startup Phase & Implementation Phase

Operations

The League manages a trio of charter-focused vendor programs as a resource for charter schools. The programs include vetted and non-vetted providers, based on the needs of the schools. These programs facilitate an efficient starting point to select products and services across various industries. You can learn more about these programs on [The League websites' Vendor Program page](#).

Opportunity for Schools in the Planning Phase

Startup Weekend EDU (SWEDU)

Hosted by University of Denver

Dates: Friday, June 10 - Sunday, June 12

Cost: Varies, see website

Location: Daniels School of Business at the University of Denver, 2199 S. University Blvd., Denver

Description: Startup Weekend EDU is taking place June 10-12th at DU's Daniels School of Business. SWEDU is an action-oriented weekend designed to incubate a set of ideas focused on improving education. These ideas go from vision to startup in just 54 hours! The output being empowered participants that are ready to leverage entrepreneurship to solve problems in education.

So Many Great Reasons to Participate!

- Don't just talk about the problem; create the solution! Everyone gets 60 seconds to pitch their idea on Friday night.
- See what it's like to utilize technology and entrepreneurship to solve problems in education.
- Work with a team of people who share your passion for innovating education and who have complementary skill-sets (e.g. educators, developers, designers, business people, marketers).
- Learn from and network with esteemed professionals in the education and startup community - Coaches and Judges are being confirmed.

[Click here](#) to see a 3-minute video highlighting the ins and outs of SWEDU and [Click here](#) for more information.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Early bird ends May 15th.

Critical Training for the Spring 2016 Cohort of Approved Charter Schools

Onboarding Your Charter School

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, July 18

Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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

Avenue, Denver

Cost: Special new school pricing! \$75 per person. Groups of 3 or more use promo code GROUP20 at checkout for \$20 off each ticket.

Audience: This training is recommended for planning teams (anyone involved in the Startup Phase of your school). Special group discounts apply for schools with three or more attendees. You may be eligible for planning grants to cover the cost of this training (contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#)).

Description: Naturally, the first thing you will do when you learn your charter school application has been approved is celebrate. The next thing you should do? [Sign-Up](#) for Onboarding Your Charter School!

This training will assist you as you navigate through the complexities of the Startup Phase; presenting a clear path forward as your school moves from theory to reality. With a combination of sessions AND personalized team meetings with various League staff across all of the critical areas of year-0, Onboarding is designed to help you effectively identify next steps and understand how to implement them across the following critical areas of school start-up:

- Qualified and Competent Leadership
- Qualified and Competent School Leadership
- Sound Operational Practices
- Functional Governing Boards
- Effective Academics and Instruction
- Robust Performance Management Plan
- Clear, Mission-Driven School Culture

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

Mark Your Calendar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! No matter what phase of school development you are in, there are critical professional development opportunities listed below for everyone. Please take some time to review the offerings and always know that you can visit the [League Calendar](#) for upcoming trainings. If you are not certain that a training pertains to you at your stage of school development, please feel free to contact the [New School Development](#) office to learn more.

Webinar: Writing SMART Goals

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Tuesday, May 3

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: Webinar. Please use a valid email address when registering and the URL will be emailed to you before May 3.

Cost: Free

Description: Join us for an interactive webinar that will address critical insights in writing focused, rigorous goals for your charter school application.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, May 2.

Induction Program Design Webinar

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, May 4

Time: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Webinar. Please use a valid email address when registering and the URL will be emailed to you before May 4.

Cost: League members: Free; Non-Members: \$25

Description: Interested in offering an approved teacher induction program at your school? Join us for a webinar to learn more about the CDE application process, program planning, and implementation.

Participants will learn how to create an onsite induction program to support and retain your new teachers. We recognize that new teachers face a multitude of challenges their first year on the job and believe charter schools can reduce this stress by providing a customized induction program with an onsite mentor. Teacher training and retention is an increasingly relevant issue as school leaders face a reduced number of teacher candidates in Colorado.

In this webinar, participants will learn to navigate the CDE application process for an approved teacher induction program, as well as hear from about the real-life successes and challenges one school encountered in their first two years of running an onsite induction program.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, May 2.

Sustaining the Fire: Reawaken Your Passion for Teaching A three-evening workshop

Hosted by DU's Center for Professional Development

Date: Thursdays in May - May 5, 12 and 19, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM each night

Location: University of Denver Campus, Morgridge College of Education, Ruffatto Hall, Room 105, 1999 E. Evans Ave, Denver

Cost: \$200 for 6.0 professional contact hours for educators

Description: Recapture your passion for teaching (and learn why it's ok for your fire to ebb and flow) in this three-evening workshop. The Center for Professional Development, in partnership with the Morgridge College of Education, is proud to host Paul Michalec, Clinical Professor in Teaching and Learning Sciences at Morgridge.

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

Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshop

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Date: Thursday, May 5

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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

Cost: \$35

Description: Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health issue, addiction challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who interact regularly with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, May 2. Event contingent on a minimum of 5 registrants

Mentoring Workshop

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Dates: Saturday, May 7

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 per person and \$100 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 per person and \$100 per additional attendee. Star Teachers use code STAR for fully discounted registration.

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

Description: This professional development seminar will support mentor teachers' understanding of the learning needs of new teachers, their roles and responsibilities as instructional coaches, and provide strategies and resources to develop, scaffold, and apply mentoring practices.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Thursday, May 5.

Lunch & Learn: Exceeding High-Stakes Test Standards with Data-Driven Instruction

Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and Cambridge Education

Services**Date:** Tuesday, May 10**Time:** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**Location:** Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S Spruce St, Centennial**Cost:** League Members: Free; Non-Members: \$25

Description: Join this event to develop your school support team for the newly required SAT test. High Stakes Exams require schools to strengthen student academic development and build their core skills one grade level at a time. Training teachers to provide data-driven instruction will plug students' specific skill gaps and increase achievement. Learn how you can combine Cambridge's diagnostic testing, data reports, lesson plans, professional development, and print and online curriculum into a comprehensive program that successfully prepares students to excel on the ACT, Aspire, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 8/9 tests and also in the classroom.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, May 9.**Business Manager Network Meeting***Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and CDE Schools of Choice Unit***Date:** Friday, May 13**Time:** Registration 8:45 AM; Meeting 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM**Location:** Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 E Academy Blvd, Denver**Cost:** \$35 per person

Description: These meetings are hosted jointly by the SOC Unit and the Colorado League of Charter Schools and occur bi-monthly on Fridays during the school year. 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.

Agenda: [Click here for agenda.](#)**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#)**Teaching with the Brain in Mind***Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools***Date:** Friday, May 13**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**Location:** Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E Yale Ave, Denver**Cost:** \$45

Description: Get back onto the road of learning while considering the brain and how it operates, thinks, and processes information. Take out your travel log and join us as we travel and experience new "destinations" including neuroplasticity, learning to learn, mindfulness, using mistakes to make meaning, and brain differences (age, stage, gender). Participants attending this workshop will take a "look under the hood" to gain a deeper understanding of how the learning brain functions and "map points-of-interest" by collecting a variety of strategies to implement into planning, content, and the classroom. Let's hit the road!

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Friday, May 6. Event contingent on a minimum of 15 registrants.**Charter Communicators Network Meeting***Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools***Date:** Thursday, May 19**Time:** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM**Location:** Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 South Spruce Street, Centennial**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.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, May 17.

Lunch & Learn: Bring Cutting Edge Financial Education to Your School with a Newly Sponsored Program

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and EverFi

Dates: Friday, May 20

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cost: League Members: free; Non-members: \$25

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

Description: Going into summer is the perfect time to evaluate what your school is doing to teach these critical life skills and prepare your students for the future. Please join EverFi for a Lunch & Learn session to learn more about an engaging, assessed, and standards aligned suite of financial literacy courses that is available at no cost to your school thanks to corporate sponsors. Join hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers across Colorado who are using EverFi to teach, assess and certify students in financial literacy concepts.

EverFi's course has been vetted and approved by all major metro area districts and are a cornerstone of many teachers' economics and math units. EverFi is also a recommended resource by the Colorado Department of Education and endorsed by the Colorado State Treasurer as an important financial education tool.

Open to all administrators, teachers, curriculum directors and anyone who would like to bring exciting, interactive resources back to campus to engage students in financial education in a new way!

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, May 18. Event is contingent on a minimum of 12 attendees.

Inaugural "Doc" Open Golf Tournament

Hosted by the Pinnacle Charter School

Date: Friday, May 27th

Time: Tournament: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Doc's Celebration begins at 2:00 PM

Location: Hyland Hills Golf Course, 9650 Sheridan Blvd., Westminster

Cost: \$120 per player (includes golf fee, cart, breakfast, lunch, and player gift) | Mini-golf \$50 per player (includes entrance, breakfast, and lunch)

Description: In honor of Doc, the Pinnacle Charter School is hosting its first annual charity golf tournament to benefit the William K. Wiener Foundation for Pinnacle Arts.

The Doc Open Golf Tournament, is in honor of Dr. William K. Wiener (Doc) who is retiring from the Pinnacle Charter School after more than 50 years of serving in education and 11 years establishing Pinnacle as one of Colorado's largest charter schools. Dr. Wiener was instrumental in bringing great art programs into the Pinnacle and creating strong partnerships with organizations such as Wonderbound Dance and the Boulder Symphony.

Your donation will directly benefit the Pinnacle Arts Foundation which will be used for student scholarships in the arts and to further the Pinnacle arts program. The Pinnacle Charter School is a 501(c)(3) entity; your prize donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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

Please contact 303-450-3985 ext. 1013 or docsopen@pinnaclecsi.org with questions or to learn more.

Information from CDE Schools of Choice Office

Each month, this section will provide updates and resources from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)'s Schools of Choice Office.

The Schools of Choice unit at CDE hosts an events page that should be checked frequently as there are always important and relevant workshops and seminars for developing schools that CDE Schools of Choice offers. [Click here](#) for the events page.

CDE's Schools of Choice Office provides a variety of Technical Assistance events for developing, new, and continuing charter schools. [Click here](#) to learn more about these offerings, see their schedule of events, and register for their trainings.

CDE's Schools of Choice Office puts out a twice-monthly "SOC Update" email and other important announcements through its Charter School ListServ. [Click here](#) to sign up.

In Every Issue

The following information is included in each newsletter as they are valuable resources to keep on your radar.

Educating your Community

Even 22 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.



What is a Charter School?

Additionally, the following links will be useful for you to remain focused on the facts in your community:

[Charter School Facts](#)

[Charter School Infographics](#)

New School Development Resources

Visit the League's [New School Development](#) page for sample model documents, upcoming events, information about grants and much. Check back frequently for updates!

Website - CharterPublic.org

The Colorado League of Charter Schools recently launched a public awareness campaign about charter public schools. Please check out the League's [campaign website](#) where the community can learn more about charter schools and find a charter school near them. We encourage you to take a look at this website and share it with your school community including prospective families.

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