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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS November 2017



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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Stages of School Development

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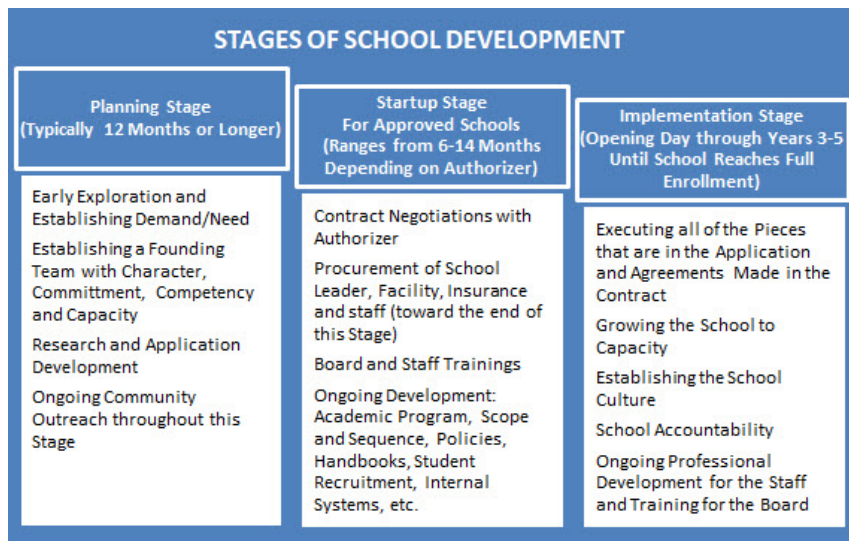
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Contact Us

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

New School Resources and Links
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Tips and Resources for Schools in the Planning Stage

Spring Application Cycle Information

If you are planning to submit an application to an authorizer in the spring of 2018, 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 5 Planning Grant application before the review can begin. To access this grant or schedule your review, please contact Kathy Zlomke at kzломke@coloradoleague.org or 303-989-5356 ext.104.

Culture Setting

Now is the time to start thinking and intentionally planning your school culture. In the process of starting your school, much emphasis will naturally be placed upon academics, operations and governance. But an equally important, and far less emphasized aspect of school startup is establishing culture. At the beginning of the school design process, as you are thinking about your ideal school, be sure to keep in mind what you want the school to feel like, what school values you want to be emphasized, and what impact you want the school to have well into the future. Don't put off this important aspect of designing your school - it is far too important to be an afterthought! [Click here](#) for culture setting resources.

Tips and Resources for Any Phase of Development

Lessons Learned in Charter School Startup

In September, we ran [part one](#) of a two-part blog post authored by the League's President, Ben Lindquist, in conjunction with two co-authors. Their topic focused on lessons learned over the years through their collective opening of ten charter schools. [Click here](#) to read *part two* of the blog.

Healthy Schools

Have you ever wanted to help create a healthy school but not sure where to begin? The Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) has resources to assist you and your school in creating a systemic, strategic and coordinated approach to supporting the whole child. [Click here](#) to assess your school and for CEI's resources to help support your school's health and wellness journey. [Click here](#) to learn about the League's Wellness Advisory.

Startup Phase: Tips and Resources

Marketing and Educating Your Community

The work of recruiting students never stops! Don't make the mistake and assume that just because your application is approved you can count on all the original families who signed intent to enroll forms. You can't. An important part of ensuring that Colorado children get the quality education they deserve is letting them know about the options available to them. Whether you are just getting started with marketing and outreach or have been working on it for some time, this guide will help you launch or refresh your efforts. [STAND OUT, A Guide to School Marketing](#) is a valuable toolkit that can help you in your ongoing efforts to get the word out about your school. Please contact [Kerri Barclay](#), Communications Manager, with questions.

Charter Contract Resources

If your charter has recently been approved you will want to view this webinar called, [Negotiating your Charter Contract](#). Be sure to contact us should you need a list of legal counsel who are experienced in supporting charter schools through this next big milestone in your school's development. [Click here](#) for these resources: Sample Charter Language & Attachments and Developing Charter School Contracts.

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)
[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.coloradoedinitiative.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.

Business Office Perspectives Meeting

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, November 10

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$35; Non-Members: \$55

Location: Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

Meals: Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Description: Business Office Perspective Meetings, held four times per year, provide networking opportunities and professional development credits for charter school business managers. All school leaders and staff involved in school business operations are invited to attend these informative events to stay abreast of relevant compliance updates, legislative issues, and best practices in the areas of finance, facilities, I.T., Human Resources, and more.

Agenda: [Click here for draft agenda.](#)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) Deadline: Wednesday, November 8.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, November 10

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$35 per person; Non-Members: \$55 per person

Location: Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver

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.

Agenda: [Click here for agenda.](#)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, November 8.

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, December 6

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$225 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

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

Description: In this professional development session, participants will create a product called the "Data Team Action Plan" as an end outcome. Through various readings, use of research-based resources and explicit modeling, participants will build background knowledge about data team structures. The "Data Team Action Plan" will be written as a data teams implementation plan to support data teams over time in your school as well as engage in intervention based instructional strategies that will support data teams next steps.

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Support Staff, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, December 4.

Classroom Strategies for Teaching English-Language Learners & Overview for English Language Development Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Wednesday, January 10

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: League Members: \$175 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee; Non-Members: \$250 for one person and \$100 each additional attendee

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

Description: With the growing population of English Language Learners 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 training will focus on instructional strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners; something you will also be able to experience as a participant.

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.

Audience: ELA teachers, ELD teachers, ELD Coordinators, Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Interventionists

Registration: [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Monday, January 8.

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