NEW SCHOOL NEWS
October 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

Planning Phase
(typically 12 months+)
- Early Exploration and Establishing Need/Support
- Community Outreach and Establishing a Founding Team
- Application Development and Ongoing Community Outreach

Startup Phase
(also referred to as "Year-0" - ranges from 6-14 months depending on authorizer)
- Application Approval and Contract Negotiations with Authorizer
- Procurement of School Leader, Facility, Insurance, Materials, Board and Staff Trainings, etc.
- Ongoing Development: Academic Program, Policies, Handbooks, Student Recruitment, Internal Systems, etc.

Implementation Phase
(opening through 3 to 5 years - until a school reaches full enrollment)
- Executing all of the Pieces that are in the Application and Agreements Made in the Contract
- Growing the School to Capacity
- Establishing the School Culture
- School Accountability
- Ongoing Professional Development for the Staff and Training for the Board

Application Review
If you are planning on submitting a charter school application to your authorizer in the spring of 2017, it is now time to schedule your application review. The League's comprehensive two-part application review takes approximately eight weeks to complete and provides planning teams with verbal and written feedback in areas where the application requires further development. If interested in scheduling a review, please contact Kathy Zlomke at your earliest convenience.

Planning Grants Update
The League is pleased to announce that its New School Development (NSD) department has recently received grants from both the Anschutz Foundation and the Daniels Fund! These grants help to fund the technical assistance and support that the League provides to new school developers across the state. Also, it will implement pass-through grants via the League's planning grant program. Please visit the League’s website for more information and always be sure to email Lori Ventimiglia before writing a grant application to determine eligibility.
Onboarding Your Charter School

Onboarding Your Charter School
Fall 2016 Cohort of Approved - or Nearly Approved - Charter Schools Scheduled to Open in 2017 or Beyond: Sign-up Now for Onboarding Your Charter School

Date: Tuesday, November 8
Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Cost: Special new school pricing - $75 per group! Please bring more than one person to this training (ideally two board members and administrator, if hired).

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

Description: Now that your charter application has been approved - or hopefully will be soon - what's next? Attend this training 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 office hours 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 startup:

- Qualified and Competent School Leadership - Screening and Hiring Strategies and Building a Strong Leadership Team
- Functional Governing Boards - Legal Duties, Roles and Responsibilities
- Robust Performance Management Plan - Meet the League; Customized Office Hours with League Staff for Your School's Unique Questions and Challenges

You may be eligible for planning grants to cover the cost of this training (contact Lori Ventimiglia for more information).

Registration: Click here to register. Deadline: Friday, November 4.
This event is contingent on a minimum of 5 registrants.

Tips and Resources for Schools in the Planning Phase

Research, Research, Research!
Research at this stage requires that a team be methodical and strategic and includes reading and familiarizing yourself with Colorado charter school law and the state accountability system, attending trainings and viewing webinars related to charter school development or your specific school model. It is also important to understand what the other schools in your targeted area offer, how they are performing and whether there are waitlists and overcrowding or schools struggling to fill their seats. In addition, a part of your research at this stage should entail visiting and networking with other charter schools. You can call the League for a list of recommended, like-modeled schools to visit.

Tips and Resources for Schools in the Startup Phase

Obtain Legal Counsel
If you haven't already obtained legal counsel, it will be important upon
application approval to do so. Contract negotiations with the authorizer as well as entering into significant contracts for facilities and equipment are best overseen by an experienced attorney. Contact the League for a list of counsel who have years of experience serving Colorado charter public schools. Also, be sure to properly vet your consultants and lawyers by checking their references to ensure that your choice is a good fit for your school.

Mark Your Calendar

Whether you are in the application development phase, have been approved and are in Year-0 or are a Year-1 school, there are critical professional development opportunities listed below for everyone. If you are unclear as to whether or not you should attend a training listed below please contact the Colorado League of Charter Schools' New School Development Department to inquire further. Visit the League Calendar to learn about upcoming trainings.

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, October 3
Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 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 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 strategies that can be used with all levels of English Language Learners.

Outcomes: In this workshop, 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;
- research-based strategies that you can use the next day in your classroom.

Registration: Click here to register. Deadline: Friday, September 30.

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning
Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, October 7
Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E Yale Ave, Denver

Cost: League Member: $175, additional attendees $100; Non-Member: $225, additional attendees $100

Description: Is the honeymoon period over? Are students displaying challenging behaviors that impact their learning and the learning of others? Not sure where to go next? This workshop is designed to enable school administrators, special education teachers, and other stakeholders to craft effective Tier II and Tier III behavior intervention plans for struggling students. Additionally, the workshop will provide training on Functional Behavioral Assessments, an essential component of the IEP process when a behavioral or developmental disorder is suspected. School Personnel will take away several resources for best practices in behavior interventions: data collection tools, behavior change monitoring tools, strategies for FAIR Plans and BIPS, social emotional learning intervention programs, and sample MTSS structures for behavior/social emotional learning.

Registration: Click here to register. Deadline: Wednesday, October 5. Event contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

2016 Colorado Safe Schools Summit

Hosted by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU Boulder and Safe2Tell of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General

Dates: Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13
Location: The Conference Center at Adams 12 Five Star Schools, 1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton

Cost: Early Bird Rate: $80 per person for both days ($50 per person per day if registering for individual days). Rates increase September 1.

Meals: Continental breakfast and lunch with a plenary will be part of each day's events.

Plenary speakers scheduled to present:

- Empowering Teens to Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral, Presented by: Dr. Sameer Hinduja
- Unleashing the Power of Prevention to Promote School Safety and Positive Youth, Presented by: Brian Bumbarger, Ph.D.
- Mitigating Risk and Improving Protection: A Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention in Colorado Schools, Presented by: Jarrod Hindman
- The Impact of Marijuana Legalization, Presented by: Michael Song
- Safe2Tell Panel, Presented by: Susan Payne, Founding Executive Director, Suzi Karrer
- Essential Elements of Effective Behavioral Threat Management Programs, Presented by: Gene Deisinger, Ph.D.

Registration: Click here for more information and to register. Click here to download the event flier.
"The 'No-Maybe-Yes' Years: Preparing for Parenting Tweens and Teens" with Kim John Payne, author of Simplicity Parenting

*Hosted by Mountain Phoenix Community School*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 12  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Wheat Ridge High School Auditorium, 9505 W. 32nd Avenue, Wheat Ridge  
**Cost:** $15 for one guest | $25 for two guests (or pay what is meaningful)  
**Description:** This presentation is designed to help parents who have tweens and teenagers and to prepare parents of younger children for the years ahead. It will highlight issues affecting young people, between the ages of 8 and 18, and offer workable strategies for navigating what can be one of the most difficult periods for parents, teachers, and teenagers alike.

**Registration:** [Click here for information and to register.](#)

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**Webinar: Using NWEA MAP Data to Differentiate Instruction**

*Hosted by Otus and the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, October 13  
**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
**Cost:** Free  
**Description:** Meet Otus, NWEA's Authorized Data Partner. Otus is a Student Performance Platform, a system that combines a robust learning management system, a collection of classroom management tools, and a powerful data warehouse. With Otus, teachers have the ability to provide students with a more personalized learning experience by using NWEA data to inform their instruction.

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

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**Lunch & Learn: DIBELS Next and Core Knowledge Language Arts: Getting Results**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and Amplify*

**Date:** Thursday, October 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:** You can move the needle! Thousands of Colorado educators are using curriculum and assessment tools every day to change outcomes for kids. Join us to find out how. Learn about the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project, a FREE resource to help your school in implementing the READ Act. Amplify also publishes a full ELA curriculum called Core Knowledge Language Arts (PreK-5). Get those details for your school needs.

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

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**5th Annual NWEA MAP Users Conference**
Hosted by Colorado League of Charter Schools and NWEA

**Date:** Friday, October 21  
**Time:** 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Cherry Creek School District Student Achievement Resource Center, 14188 E Briarwood Avenue, Centennial  
**Cost:** $225 per person.  
**Group Discount:** Groups of three or more, enter promo code 2016NWEAGROUP for $20 off per person.  
**Description:** Join NWEA MAP users from more than 50 schools and districts across Colorado for this one-of-a-kind event. Improve your use and understanding of this valuable assessment while networking and learning from users and experts in the field. The conference will feature multiple breakout sessions on a variety of topics designed for advanced, intermediate and beginner users. Previous attendees found presentations to be highly valuable, and 100% of those surveyed said they would return.  
**Registration:** [Click here to register].  
**Deadline:** Monday, October 17.

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**Board Fundamentals**

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

**Date:** Friday, October 28  
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
**Location:** TBD  
**Cost:** $35 per person  
**Description:** This training is offered twice a year in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education Schools of Choice office to support board members by providing a sound introduction to board practice and responsibilities, a refresher to continuing board members in board leadership roles, and an introduction to general charter school governing board practices and responsibilities for charter school leaders.  
**Registration:** [Click here to register].  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, October 26.

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**Novice Teachers: Effective Instructional Strategies to Support Positive Student Outcomes**

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

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

**Dates/Time/Locations:**
- Tuesday, November 1 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue., Denver  
- Monday, January 9 through Thursday, January 12 | 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.
Deadline: Friday, October 28.

Implementing Effective Data Teams

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

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

Dates/Times:

- Thursday, November 3 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Friday, January 13 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 14 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: $350 per person for all three sessions. | Non-Members: $450 per person for all three sessions | $200 for each additional attendee.

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

Description: In this series of professional development sessions, participants will create a Professional Development product called the "Data Team Action Research Plan". Participants will be asked to gather formative and summative assessment data to bring to each PD session, set goals that drive the data team, analyze student work samples, engage in learning intervention based instructional strategies, and participate in a lesson vs. assessment study.

Registration: Click here for more information and to register.
Deadline: Monday, October 31.

Writing SMART Goals for Colorado's Accountability System (Western Slope)

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, November 4
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional work time from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Cost: League Members and New School Developers: $50 for one person and $25 each additional attendee; Non-Members: $75 for one person and $25 each additional attendee

Location: Western Colorado Community College, 2508 Blichmann
Description: The focus of this session will be to establish realistic, yet challenging targets that are aligned to your new PARCC data and increasing your awareness of tools you have access to. We will also look at tools you can use to set targets for some of your local data (including K-3 data, DIBELS, STAR, NWEA-MAP, etc) to inform decision making and begin the Action Planning process. The goal will be to develop a plan that is focused, thorough, and measurable in order to produce a document that can be used to monitor progress.

If needed, we will review the State’s Accountability System (SPF, etc), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you. Time will NOT be given to work in the UIP (unless you stay for office hours or attend a UIP workshop).

What to Bring: Laptops, 2015-16 SPF documents, username and password to UIP online system, last year’s UIP, interim and formative data

Registration: Click here to register. Deadline: Thursday, October 27.

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Onboarding Your Charter School
Fall 2016 Cohort of Approved - or Nearly Approved - Charter Schools Scheduled to Open in 2017 or Beyond: Sign-up Now for Onboarding Your Charter School

Date: Tuesday, November 8
Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Cost: Special new school pricing - $75 per group! Please bring more than one person to this training (ideally two board members and administrator, if hired).
Location: Colorado League of Charter Schools’ Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver
Description: Now that your charter application has been approved - or hopefully will be soon - what’s next? Attend this training 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 office hours 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 startup:

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- Functional Governing Boards- Legal Duties, Roles and Responsibilities
- Robust Performance Management Plan - Meet the League; Customized Office Hours with League Staff for Your School's Unique Questions and Challenges

You may be eligible for planning grants to cover the cost of this training (contact Lori Ventimiglia for more information).

Registration: Click here to register. Deadline: Friday, November 4.
This event is contingent on a minimum of 5 registrants.

Introduction to the UIP

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, November 9  
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional office hours from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)  
**Location:** Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver  
**Cost:** League Members: $50 for one person and $25 for each additional attendee; Non-Members: $75 for one person and $25 for each additional attendee.  
**Note:** Lunch will not be provided, but light refreshments will be available.  
**Description:** Come to this session if you are new to the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). We will give an overview of the UIP, walk through the timeline, template, and how to access the information you need to complete yours.

Review the State’s Accountability System (SPF, etc.), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you. Time will NOT be given to work in the UIP (see UIP workshops).

**What to Bring:** Laptops, 2015-16 SPF documents, username and password to UIP online system, last year’s UIP, interim and formative data  
**Registration:** [Click here to register]. **Deadline:** Monday, November 7. Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 registrants.

Writing SMART Goals for Colorado’s Accountability System (Denver/Metro)

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, November 10  
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional work time from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)  
**Cost:** League Members and New School Developers: $50 for one person and $25 each additional attendee; Non-Members: $75 for one person and $25 each additional attendee  
**Location:** Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Center, 4201 E. Yale Avenue, Denver  
**Description:** The focus of this session will be to establish realistic, yet challenging targets that are aligned to your new PARCC data and increasing your awareness of tools you have access to. We will also look at tools you can use to set targets for some of your local data (including K-3 data, DIBELS, STAR, NWEA-MAP, etc) to inform decision making and begin the Action Planning process. The goal will be to develop a plan that is focused, thorough, and measurable in order to produce a document that can be used to monitor progress.

If needed, we will review the State’s Accountability System (SPF, etc.), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning,
discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you. Time will NOT be given to work in the UIP (unless you stay for office hours or attend a UIP workshop).

What to Bring: Laptops, 2015-16 SPF documents, username and password to UIP online system, last year's UIP, interim and formative data

Registration: [Click here to register. Deadline: Monday, November 7.](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age)

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Writing SMART Goals for Colorado's Accountability System (Colorado Springs)

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

*Date:* Monday, November 14  
*Time:* 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (with optional work time from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)  
*Cost:* League Members and New School Developers: $50 for one person and $25 each additional attendee; Non-Members: $75 for one person and $25 each additional attendee  
*Location:* James Irwin Charter Schools, 5525 Astrozon Blvd., Colorado Springs

*Description:* The focus of this session will be to establish realistic, yet challenging targets that are aligned to your new PARCC data and increasing your awareness of tools you have access to. We will also look at tools you can use to set targets for some of your local data (including K-3 data, DIBELS, STAR, NWEA-MAP, etc) to inform decision making and begin the Action Planning process. The goal will be to develop a plan that is focused, thorough, and measurable in order to produce a document that can be used to monitor progress.

If needed, we will review the State's Accountability System (SPF, etc), timelines and how they fit into the goals of school improvement planning, discover what you need to know about the UIP for 2016-17, receive updates with State Assessment Transition, reporting, access to your data and tools and resources available to you. Time will NOT be given to work in the UIP (unless you stay for office hours or attend a UIP workshop).

What to Bring: Laptops, 2015-16 SPF documents, username and password to UIP online system, last year's UIP, interim and formative data

Registration: [Click here to register. Deadline: Wednesday, November 9.](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age)

Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

Business Manager Network Meeting

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

*Date:* Friday, November 18  
*Time:* Registration 8:45 AM; Meeting 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM  
*Location:* TBD  
*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.

Registration: Click here to register. Deadline: Wednesday, November 16. Event is contingent on a minimum of 5 attendees.

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. 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/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