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COLORADO LEAGUE of  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*

## NEW SCHOOL NEWS October 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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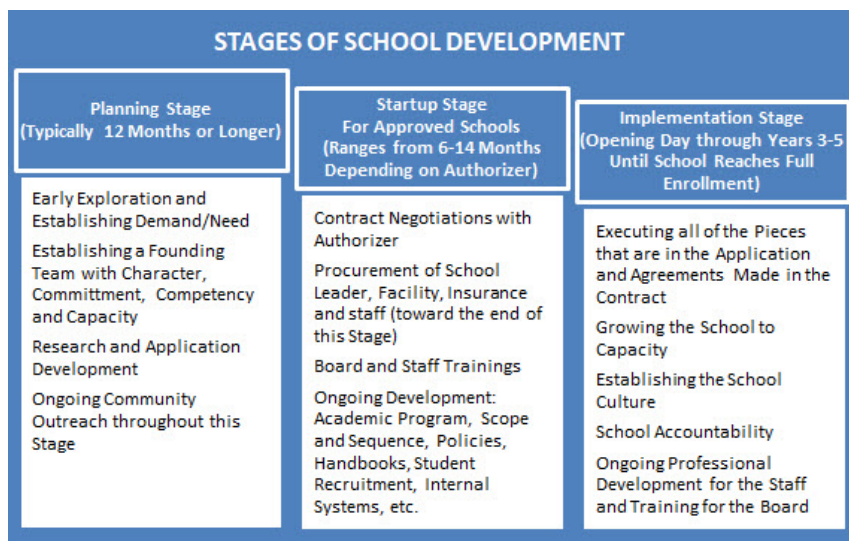
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#### Contact Us

**Colorado League of Charter Schools**  
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## Tips and Resources for Schools in the Planning Stage

### Mark your calendar!

October 18 at 11:59 PM is the SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) Grant Application. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. [Click here](#) for the new RFP and all related 2017-18 CCSP documents. Contact the Schools of Choice office at CDE for more information by [clicking here](#).

### Research, Research, Research!

Research at this stage requires that a team be methodical and strategic and includes [reading](#) and familiarizing yourselves with Colorado charter school law, 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.

### Application Review

If you are planning on submitting a charter school application to your authorizer in the spring of 2018 *now is the 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 the New School Development (NSD) department has recently received a new grant from the Anschutz Foundation! These grants help to fund the technical assistance and support that the NSD provides new school developers across the state as well as to provide pass-through grants through our 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.

## Tips and Resources for Schools in the Startup and

## Implementation Stages

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 schools. Always be sure to properly vet your consultants and lawyers and check their references to ensure that your choice is a good fit for your school.

### Resource - 11 Reasons Why You Should Hire an Owner's Representative

[Click here](#) to learn more about the benefits of using an Owner's Representative.

### Customized Governing Board Training

In the startup stage? Now is a good time to work with the League to schedule your first customized board training.

Effective governance is a critical component to a high-quality charter school. It is best practice for charter school boards to engage in professional growth opportunities and focus on continuous improvement as a board and a school.

We encourage you to reach out to the League to schedule a Best Practices in Charter School Governance training. This is typically a four-hour customized training based on a pre-survey and consultation, although, full-day trainings are also available. The training will be held at your school or a location of your choice and will be led by an experienced trainer who will guide you through your roles, responsibilities and other customized topics. The cost for this training is \$700 for a 4-hour training or \$1,100 for a full-day training. **Stage 6 planning grants can be used for this training.** Please contact Lori Ventimiglia at [lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org](mailto:lventimiglia@coloradoleague.org) for eligibility and more information. Be sure to contact Lisa Jarvi Nolan at [ljnolan@coloradoleague.org](mailto:ljnolan@coloradoleague.org) to learn more or to schedule a training. Ideally your first training will occur once your head of school has been identified and can attend with the board so plan accordingly when working with Lisa to get this training scheduled.

## Save The Date For Startup Stage Teams

### Charter School Law Institute's Colorado Legal Seminar

*Hosted by the Charter School Law Institute*

**Date:** Friday, October 27

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Location:** DPPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street, Denver

**Cost:** \$275 for one person and \$250 per additional attendee

**Description:** [Charter School Law Institute](#) will be running a one-day in-depth legal seminar on emerging federal and state civil rights issues. Through a combination of lectures and small-group breakout sessions led by local and national experienced legal counsel, they will: examine how to navigate immigration issues facing students and schools; learn how the US Supreme Court is raising expectations for public schools serving special education students; discuss how to prevent race discrimination, including unintentional and unconscious bias; review state and federal laws regarding LGBT students; and address issues specific to school discipline, bullying, harassment and sexual violence. Together, they will tackle the most cutting edge legal questions facing charter schools across the country. As an attendee, you will leave with concrete, practical strategies and tips on how to ensure you are in compliance of all related legal requirements and effectively serving all students.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Friday, October 20.

## 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.**

### 2017 Colorado Safe Schools Summit

*Hosted by Colorado School Safety Resource Center*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 18 - Thursday, October 19

**Location:** Adams 12 Five Star Conference Center, 1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton

**Cost:** Full two-day registration \$95 plus registration fees | Single day registration cost \$48 plus registration fees.

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

### Instructional Coaching Practices

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Friday, October 20

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

**Cost:** League Members: \$175 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$250 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

**Description:** This workshop will focus on two instructional coaching practices: 1.) Observation/Feedback Cycles, and 2.) Data Review Meetings. [Click here to learn more](#).

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

### Mindfulness & Self-Care for Educators

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 25

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$75 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$125 for one person and \$50 per additional attendee

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

**Meals:** A light breakfast and snacks will be offered, but lunch will not be provided.

**Audience:** School leaders, instructional coaches, lead teachers, teachers, health and wellness staff, counselors, and support staff

**Description:** In today's fast-paced and high stakes educational climate, the rate of teacher burnout and turnover is increasing at an alarming rate. Thus, it is crucial that educators learn and practice effective self-care strategies.

Self-care is not just something that occurs before and after work. Rather, effective self-care must include proactive and in-the-moment strategies that teachers can use on-the-job to reduce stress and respond to difficult situations. This highly experiential workshop demonstrates a variety of mindfulness techniques and delivers practical, research-backed strategies to help educators. [Click here to learn more](#).

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Tuesday, October 24.

### NWEA 2 Day Workshop: MAP Skills Basics, Assessment

## Data for RtI, Instructional Ladder, and Engaging ALL Students

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools and facilitated by NWEA*

**Dates:** Monday, October 30 - Tuesday, October 31

**Times:** 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM each day

**Cost:** League Members: \$350 per person for two days; \$175 per person for one day | Non-members: \$500 per person for two days; \$250 per person for one day

**Location:** Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S. Spruce Street, Englewood

**Meals:** A light breakfast and lunch will be provided both days.

**Audience:** NWEA Users, Classroom Teachers, Interventionists, Data Support Staff, RtI Coordinators, Data and Accountability Staff, MTSS Coordinators, Instructional Coaches, Teacher's Aides, and Administration  
**Description:** Welcome to the 2 Day NWEA Conference hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools!

There will be a total of four power sessions delivered within this two day regional training. [Click here to learn more](#) about the sessions that will occur each day.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, October 25.

## Facilitation of Quality Professional Development

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Wednesday, November 1

**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:** During this workshop, attendees will explore an overview of successful professional development facilitation. This will allow attendees to build background knowledge about the components of quality PD that will lead to superior PD structures that can become systematized over time. Participants will also examine research-based strategies for teaching adult learners and analyze how these fit within PD structures. Time will be allotted to plan and create think partnerships about how to lead effective professional development sessions. [Click here to learn more](#).

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, October 30.

## Workplace Violence Training

*Hosted by Hub International Insurance*

**Date:** Thursday, November 2

**Time:** 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Location:** Pinnacle Event Center, 1001 West 84th Avenue, Denver

**Description:** ALICE Training Institute is a research-based, proactive approach to responding to an active shooter situation which authorizes and empowers those engaged in such an event to utilize existing building infrastructure, technology, and human action to increase their chance of survival. They are excited to speak at this event.

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

## Green Schools Summit: Making Green Schools Add Up

*Hosted by U.S. Green Building Council Colorado*

**Date:** Friday, November 3

**Location:** Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada

**Description:** In addition to their positive environmental attributes, green schools support the health (physical, social, intellectual) of students, teachers, and staff by providing a safe, comfortable, healthy and functional physical environment. This year's summit will be focusing on doing more with less. Year after year schools are expected to yield better

results with less resources. A variety of reasons have caused this issue including escalating construction costs, ever-limited funding, the growing population of Colorado, etc. The Summit will provide a platform where industry professionals and stakeholders can share how they've overcome these difficulties and achieved better results in green schools.

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

## **Two-Day Workshop: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

Formerly known as Response to Intervention

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Dates:** Monday, November 6 - Tuesday, November 7

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM each day

**Cost:** League Members: \$350 for one person and \$275 per additional attendee from the same school community; Non-members: \$550 for one person and \$275 per additional attendee

**Location:** Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 S Spruce St, Englewood

**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch will be provided both days.

**Audience:** Principals, Teachers, Teacher's Aids, Academic Interventionists, Instructional staff, Support Staff, Counselors, Special Education Teachers, Data and Assessment Coordinators and Instructional Guides

**Description:** MTSS is a comprehensive, student-centered assessment, systems, and intervention framework used to identify and support individual student academic or social emotional gaps and challenges. Attend this workshop to learn how to effectively select intervention strategies aligned with current evidence of student learning through a collaborative model. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Wednesday, November 1.

## **Specially Designed Instruction in Math**

*Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools*

**Date:** Thursday, November 9

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Cost:** League Members: \$175 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee; Non-members: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

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

**Meals:** A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Description:** Are your students with specific learning disabilities in math still not closing the gap after their 3rd round of a research-based math intervention program? This is because 1) research-based programming is not a "one size fits all" remedy for reading deficiencies, and 2) the magic is in the implementation not the box set. Special Education teachers must adeptly diagnose root cause gaps in skills and knowledge, and specially design curriculum and instruction to address these personalized needs - and they must do it efficiently. Participants will understand the different cognitive processing of math, and will be able to improve student growth by implementing a continuous data inquiry cycle. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Registration:** [Click here to register.](#) **Deadline:** Tuesday, November 7. Event is contingent on 8 registrants.

## **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:** Coming soon.

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

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