

Conference COVID-19 Statement

March 10, 2020

Dear Colorado Charter Schools Conference participant:

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has cancelled our 2020 Colorado Charter Schools Conference on March 12-13 due to public health and safety concerns. This decision was not made lightly, and we apologize for any inconvenience or disappointment it may cause.

For the past few weeks, League officials have been monitoring the developments related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Here is what we know today:

- Three newly announced cases of the highly infectious COVID-19 brings the total number of confirmed cases in Colorado to 15.
- State health officials are waiting for the results of another 14 tests.
- Gov. Jared Polis has declared a state of emergency due to the anticipation of additional cases being confirmed in Colorado in the coming days and weeks.

For these reasons, the League felt we had no choice but to put the health and safety of our charter community first and cancel our annual conference. We recognize that this decision creates disruption for everyone who had planned to attend, but our concern for safety takes precedence over what we know are economic impacts for all of us. We trust that you understand it was not an easy decision for us to make but support that it is the right decision.

In addition to protecting the health and safety of our charter community, canceling our annual conference will allow the League to reprioritize our immediate focus on three important issues:

- First, supporting all of our charter schools during this potential public health crisis.
- Second, continuing to advocate for charter schools during the 2020 legislative session.
- Third, determining a plan B to deliver quality and value from the sessions from the conference.

The League also will ensure that our state's charter schools are not overlooked when public health and safety agencies assume that outreach with school districts will adequately cover all schools. We will diligently remain in contact with public agencies to learn of breaking developments and our members with regular updates on COVID-19 and available resources.

Your understanding and patience are appreciated as we manage the numerous inquiries regarding the cancellation of the conference. Registered attendees, presenters, exhibitors and sponsors will receive additional detailed information in follow-up emails regarding next steps.

You can rest assured that the League will continue to be your trusted partner to keep our state's charter school community informed, prepared and safe. We are working closely with political and health at all levels of government to advocate for your needs and minimize disruption to your schools. Please stay tuned for our communications and our website for updated information and resources.

This PDF statement can be found at cocharterconference.org

Sincerely,

Peter Mason
Vice President of Communications
Colorado League of Charter Schools