Virtual Town Hall

Colorado League of Charter Schools
May 29, 2020
Meeting Norms

• Given the number of participants, please stay muted throughout.
• Use the chat box to ask questions or make comments.
• If necessary, please rename yourself with your NAME, SCHOOL (click on “Participants” at the bottom of the screen in order to do this).
  – If we can’t get to all questions asked throughout the meeting, this will enable us to follow up individually after.
Meeting Agenda

• Welcome and overview
• League COVID resources and supports
• State and federal legislative updates
• Planning the 2020-21 school year
  – Bill Kottenstette, Executive Director, CDE Schools of Choice
• Special guest: Colorado Governor Jared Polis
• Questions, comments and concerns
• Close
League COVID-19 resource page

https://coloradoleague.org/COVID

Town Hall FAQs

https://coloradoleague.org/covid19faq
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CALLS by topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>HUMAN RESOURCES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education Teachers Support Group</td>
<td>HR Support Group</td>
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<td>Mondays 1:00-2:00 PM MDT (Weekly starting 3/23) - <a href="#">Register Here</a></td>
<td>Mondays 9:30-10:30 AM MDT (Weekly starting 3/30) - <a href="#">Register Here</a></td>
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<td><strong>INSTRUCTION</strong></td>
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<td>Instructional Leaders Support Group</td>
<td>School Leaders HR Support and Triage</td>
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<td>Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 AM MDT (Weekly starting 3/25) - <a href="#">Register Here</a></td>
<td>Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 AM MDT (Weekly starting 4/1) - <a href="#">Register Here</a></td>
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<td><strong>RURAL SCHOOLS</strong></td>
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<td>Thursdays, 9:00-10:00 AM MDT (Weekly starting 4/9) - Register Here</td>
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<td><strong>BUSINESS LEADERS</strong></td>
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<td>Business Managers Support Group</td>
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<td>Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 AM MDT (Weekly starting 3/31) - <a href="#">Register Here</a></td>
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<td><strong>TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS</strong></td>
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<td>Fridays 11:00-12:00 AM MDT (Next meeting 5/29) - <a href="#">Register Here</a></td>
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<td><strong>THESE CALLS CAN BE FOUND AT:</strong></td>
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<td><a href="https://coloradoleague.org/COVID">https://coloradoleague.org/COVID</a></td>
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<td><strong>LEGISLATIVE</strong></td>
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<td>“Legislative Lunch” State and Federal Policy Updates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fridays at noon (weekly continuing through 5/8) – 267.930.4000; 335-127-816</td>
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Where We Stand Today

• General Assembly returned this week
• Likely in session for 3 weeks
• JBC proposed 15% cut to K-12, which would likely translate into 5-7% reduction in PPR
• School Finance Act, introduced next week, where final numbers will be determined
• JBC also adopted 21% cut to Charter Capital Construction Fund and 20% cut to CSI Mill Levy Equalization Fund
• Mid-year rescission if we don’t get additional federal stimulus?
Federal Funding Latest

• $510 million in federal CARES Act funding to K-12 under Polis’ Executive Order from last week
  – Money landing with districts now
  – Must be shared on a per-pupil basis with charters
    • “Because these funds are being distributed on a per pupil basis to districts based on a calculation inclusive of charter school students, Section 22-30.5-112(3), C.R.S. directly applies and would therefore require sharing with charter schools on a per pupil basis.”
  – https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/coronavirusrelieffundallocations
  – For costs incurred during the period March 1 to December 30, 2020
  – Complete list of allowable uses:
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RzgRYUtMg1h7moPr5Woupd0PTe6Xbx8E/view
    (pgs 4-5)
$510 million in federal CARES Act funding to K-12

Examples of allowable uses:

1) Expenses due to modifications necessary to comply with State and local public health orders, including classroom and building reconfigurations, student health monitoring, transportation, smaller class sizes, and increased social distancing.

2) Expenses to prepare for school closures and reopenings, including but not limited to planning, human resources, and parent communication.

6) Expenses to facilitate distance learning for students and educators, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions. This includes but is not limited to hardware, software, internet connections, curriculum development, professional development for educators, online learning materials, student and family outreach, engagement, and support, and reimbursement of these expenses incurred directly by educators when supported by appropriate documentation.

7) Expenses to recover lost learning time due to COVID-19. This includes increasing instructional hours that were reduced due to COVID-19 and also includes adding instructional hours for vulnerable and at-risk children and youth.
Federal Funding Latest (cont.)

- $109 million to K-12 in federal ESSER support
  - Likely to start landing with districts sometime in the coming weeks
  - [https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/educationstabilizationfund](https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/educationstabilizationfund)
  - “The CARES Act does not directly address allocation of district ESSER funds to charter schools that are not standalone LEAs. The clear legislative intent, however, is to benefit all public schools and students regardless of school type. See, e.g., CARES Act Sec. 18003(d)(3). CDE asks that districts include their charter schools on equal footing with traditional schools, when determining the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19, consistent with the intent of the CARES Act and the intent of Colorado law, see C.R.S. 22-30.5-112(3). LEAs must meaningfully engage all school leaders, including charter school leaders, in determining their plans for using ESSER funds.”
  - League advocacy template: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UJKy-wfiEF03_awmxा66AWzhnVpx101_tKPrPFNo0ws/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UJKy-wfiEF03_awmxा66AWzhnVpx101_tKPrPFNo0ws/edit)
Federal Funding Latest (cont.)

• $109 million to K-12 in federal ESSER support

• Allowable uses:

Examples of allowable activities include coordination with public health, purchasing educational technology, planning for long term closures, training and supplies for sanitation, mental health support, summer school and after school programs, funds for principals to address local needs, and other activities to continue school operations and employment of existing staff. For a full list of allowable uses, please review Appendix A of the ESSER Fund Certification and Agreement (PDF) from the U.S. Department of Education.
Federal Funding Latest (cont.)

- **Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (part of CARES Act)**
  - $44 million to Colorado
- Funds will be used, at the discretion of the Governor, for—
  - Grants to LEAs that the SEA deems have been most significantly affected by the virus, to support the continuing provision of educational services and the LEAs’ ongoing functionality
  - Grants to IHEs with the most affected students, for the continuing provision of services and ongoing functionality
  - Support to other IHEs, LEAs, or education-related entities for emergency services to students, provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs
- Still awaiting final guidance
Federal Funding Latest (cont.)

• **Further federal stimulus?**
  – The Heroes Act (passed House on May 15)
    • $500 billion in aid to the states (~ CO portion: $4 billion)
    • $1.5 billion for distance learning
    • $56.3 billion in flexible funding for K-12 (similar construct as of now to ESSER)
    • $110 million for student mental health services
  – Unlikely to become law in its present form

• **Charter School Program waiver**
  – Potential $2 million pot of money for Colorado charters
Contingency planning for the fall

League Series

The Road to Re-Opening #2: Taking Stock & Refocusing Strengths, Structures, & Resources - 6/3/2020 1:30-3:00 PM MDT. In this session, leadership teams will take inventory of existing school strengths, structures, and resources and work to refine or repurpose them to meet new needs. REGISTER

https://returntoschoolroadmap.org/
http://www.catalyst-ed.org/covid/roadmaps/
Planning the 2020-21 School Year
CDE – Planning the 2020-21 School Year

• Framework and Toolkit for School and District Leaders
  – [http://www.cde.state.co.us/planning20-21](http://www.cde.state.co.us/planning20-21)
  – DRAFT - Evolving document
  – Buttons on website to provide feedback
  – Advisory committee to help refine work
    • Charter Admin, Teacher, and Student
    • Public meetings posted online
  – Regular, live opportunities for feedback as well
Other CDE Notes

- CSP waiver
- **Communications** since last town hall:
  - Planning for the 2020-21 school year
  - CARES Act guidance
  - Call for Ideas
  - Early Childhood
  - School Nutrition
  - Migrant Education Programs
  - ESSER Funds and Charter Schools
  - Coronavirus Relief Funds – clarifying guidance (charter information)
  - Rural Mental Health Toolkit
  - *Contact me or [Kelly Wynveen](mailto:Kelly.Wynveen@state.co.us) to be added to the charter emergency contact list
- Single-District Online application deadline extended until June 19th
Governor Jared Polis
Virtual Educator Summit

Educating Beyond Limits: Overcoming Barriers That Impact Student Success

Monday, June 8, 2020

coloradoleague.org/ed20

[REGISTER]
Questions and Answers

charter411@coloradoleague.org
Next Town Hall

Friday, June 12 – 9:00-10:00am