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COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

May 2018



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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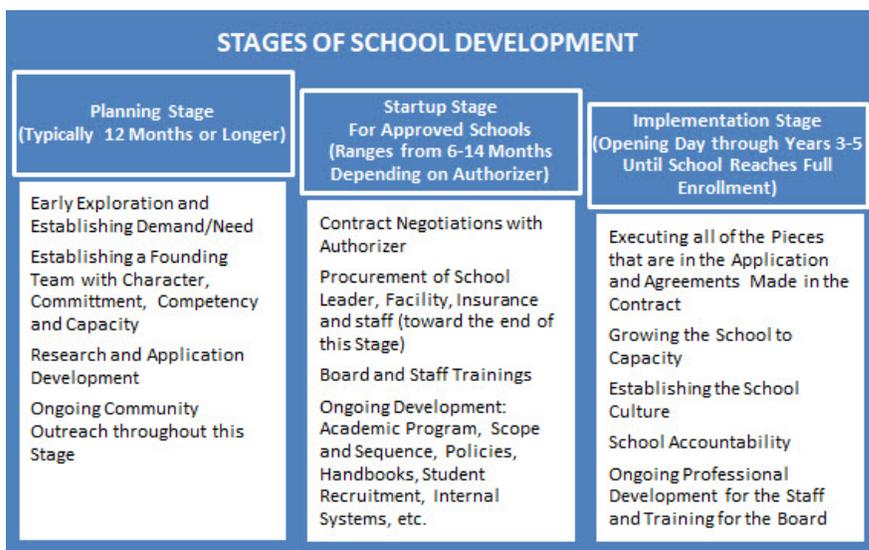
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Contact Us

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

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Stages of School Development



Schools At Every Stage

New School Development Needs Assessment and Satisfaction Survey

We strive to meet the needs of all the school launchers we work with and to impact the development of quality schools right from the start. Please take 10 - 15 minutes to complete [this survey](#) to share with us what we are getting right, could be doing more of, less of or differently.

Interested in a bonus? If you complete the survey by May 20, you will be entered to win a \$25.00 Visa prepaid card. One winner will be randomly selected.

Planning Grants and Webinars

The League offers five separate planning grants which total \$16,000 if a founding team were to receive them all. These grants are designed to sequentially develop your charter application and build community and stakeholder support. Please note that eligibility to apply for the League's planning grants are contingent upon viewing select League webinars at each stage and answering questions in a correlating survey as follows:

Webinars to establish readiness for Stage 1 Application Plan Development Grant:

- Intro to Writing a Charter School Application
- Community Outreach and Marketing
- Writing SMART Goals

Webinars to establish readiness for Stage 2 Financial Plan Development Grant:

- Alignment of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction
- Special Education and the Response to Intervention (RtI) Process
- Overview of Relevant Education Laws

Webinars to establish readiness for Stage 3 Governance Plan/Application Writing Grant:

- New School Budgeting
- Charter School Facilities Overview
- Developing a Performance Management Plan
- Governance 101

Webinar to establish readiness for Stage 4 Application Review Grant:

- Revising Your Application Based on Feedback

Webinars to establish readiness for Stage 5 Governance Training and Flexible Grant:

- Employment Issues/Hiring a Leader
- Negotiating a Charter Contract
- Contracting for Business Services
- Recommended prior to making a facility commitment, but not required for Planning Grant application.
- Facilities Leasing and Tenant Issues and/or Facilities Financing

Please review the Planning Grant Guidelines thoroughly and contact [Lori Ventimiglia](#) to discuss eligibility and access the webinar surveys, grant applications and rubrics.

Planning Stage: Mark Your Calendar

CDE Board Fundamentals

Hosted by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Date: Friday, June 1

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 South Spruce Street, Englewood, 80112

Registration: [Click here](#). Register by 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 31.

Tips and Resources for Schools in the Planning Stage

Application Review

If your school is in the process of writing an application to submit in the fall of 2018, be sure to reach out to Kathy Zlomke, the League's New School Development Manager, at kzломke@coloradoleague.org to schedule your comprehensive, [two-part application review](#).

School Visits

If you are in the early stages of developing your school, one important aspect of your research around school model, culture, creative scheduling and more is to visit schools. To visit charter schools in Colorado, you can use the League's [Find A Charter School tool](#) to locate school models that interest you. This school finder lets you search by district, county or city, grade levels, educational program or school name. If you don't know where to start, contact the [League's New School Development team](#) to discuss. We can help to connect you with schools that we think would be a good fit for your team!

Startup Stage: Mark Your Calendar

CDE Board Fundamentals

Hosted by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018

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Location: Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, 6857 South Spruce Street, Englewood, 80112

Registration: [Click here to register](#). Register by 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 31.

Onboarding Your Charter School

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools (A League training for newly approved charter schools)

Date: July 10

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Colorado League of Charter School Office, 2696 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver, Suite 250

Description: Recently approved - and hoping to soon be approved - charter schools to open in 2019 or beyond won't want to miss this training! Onboarding is a training for founding teams/governing boards of new charter schools (and hopeful new charter schools). Your team will be guided to navigate the complexities of the startup phase; presenting a clear path forward as your school moves from theory to reality. There will be morning workshops and customized, afternoon "office hours" with League staff across critical areas of school startup.

Morning Workshops:

Recruiting, Onboarding and Retaining a Strong School Leadership Team

Avoid Common HR Pitfalls in Hiring

Recommended Screening and Interviewing Practices

Using a Head of School Evaluation to Guide the Hiring Process

Hiring and Beyond: Monitoring and Evaluating your Head of School

The Business Side of School Startup

Critical Back Office Systems and Information

Navigate the Facilities Maze

Need to Know Insurance Information

Ready, Set, Shop - The Mass Purchasing Begins

If You Build It...

Student Recruitment Strategies

Community Partnerships

The Enrollment Process - What you Need to Know

Customized Afternoon Office Hours:

Individual teams will meet with League content experts to delve deeper around their school's specific needs and circumstances.

Registration: [Click here to register and learn more.](#)

Startup Stage: Tips and Resources

Staffing Up

With August just a few short months away, it is likely that you are in the midst of the staff search process. Due to the national teacher shortages, it is not unheard of that some positions remain unfilled as summer approaches. If your school is still searching for leadership or school faculty, be sure to visit the [League's Career Center](#). The League now offers our members and new schools efficient, applicable and relevant Talent Development services and solutions including HR Support and Resources, Hiring Strategies, Leadership Development and Diversity and Inclusion to just name a few.

1. Your school has several open positions and you need to hire now! Talent Development can help you. We are committed to ensuring your hiring needs are met.
2. Need to plan how many people to hire in the upcoming year? We can help you create a hiring plan and how to execute it.
3. Now you hired your team, what next? Talent Development can assist you with developing and growing your team.

Coming soon: More tips on effective Talent Acquisition (Hiring) and Development strategies. For more information contact [Trina Maull](#), the League's Director of Talent Development.

Student Recruitment and Marketing

Looking for ways to increase student enrollment at your school? Want to develop more community partnerships but not sure where to start? The League's communications staff is available to brainstorm marketing ideas and provide advice and best practices on creating a communications plan.

If you are interested in sending out a press release but don't know where to start, the League's communications department can provide member schools with media contact lists, and help brainstorm which news outlets are most likely to cover the story. Also, the League offers Charter Communicators Network Meetings which are held three times during the school year for charter school communications and development professionals. Each full day event includes presentations from experts on topics such as marketing your school, fundraising, and media relations. The next Charter Communicators Network meeting will take place in the fall of 2018.

Coming soon: Work with the League's Communications team to develop your marketing plan! For more information, be sure to contact our Communications team: [Peter Mason](#) or [Kerri Barclay](#).

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)
 - The League Monthly Update (monthly e-newsletter that will keep member schools informed of the League's work and how we are supporting charter schools in our state)
- [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, June 8

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Location: TBD

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: Coming soon.

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, June 6.

Tech Talk Quarterly

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, June 8

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Location: TBD

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, June 6.

Making STEM an Everyday Happening in the Early Childhood Classroom

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Monday, June 11

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: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Meals: A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Target Audience: This training is recommended for all Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers, paraprofessionals, and teaching assistants.

Description: Young children enjoy exploration, experimentation, and discovery. Early Childhood Educators who are skilled at building on children's natural curiosity enable young children to build solid content knowledge, develop higher order thinking skills, solve problems creatively, communicate effectively, and successfully collaborate with others. Classrooms that support children in developing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts help them develop the skills to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st century. Research shows that young children are capable of learning STEM concepts. This training focuses on supporting teacher's understanding of the scientific inquiry process, how to facilitate rather than direct children's learning, and how to plan open-ended activities to integrate STEM concepts throughout the early childhood day.

Facilitated by: Sheryl Robledo

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, June 6. Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

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

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Thursday, June 14 and Friday, June 15

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

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

Cost: League Members: \$350.00 for one person and \$200.00 per additional attendee from the same school community; Non-members: \$450.00 for one person and \$300.00 per additional attendee

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

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 that includes:

Identifying, collecting and analyzing student data with a robust body of evidence

Selecting instructional and social emotional Tier 1,2, and 3 interventions

aligned to appropriate skill gaps

Monitoring student progress and setting appropriate goals

Deepen your understanding of the principles of MTSS and best practices as shared through national researched based practices and real time case scenarios,

Prioritize an action plan on next steps for your team or individual tool box and capacity

This workshop on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support will be led by Rachael Gurian, who has facilitated numerous Colorado League sponsored PD, presented at the League annual conference, and has supported several charter schools as a school leader and partner across the Denver metropolitan area. Rachael has also worked in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and San Diego within the capacity of school leader, teacher, and as a school counselor. Her highlights of work include successful on the ground models of MTSS in urban and rural areas across the country specifically targeting literacy and social emotional supports. Rachael currently acts an associate special education partner for 25 charter schools in Denver Public Schools and a diagnostic reviewer for school identified on school improvement for the Colorado Department of Education.

Facilitated by: TBD

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Monday, June 11. Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Intervention Planning

Hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools

Date: Friday, June 22

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: \$225 for one person and \$125 per additional attendee

Meals: A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Description: Are students displaying challenging behaviors that impact their learning and the learning of others? Not sure what to do 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.

Facilitated by: Sabrina Hodges

Registration: [Click here to register](#). **Deadline:** Wednesday, June 20. Event is contingent on a minimum of 8 registrants.

Colorado League of Charter Schools

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Password: If you forgot your password, click the "Forgot your password?" under the Sign In box. A password reset email will be sent to kbarclay@coloradoleague.org .

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