



**Colorado Charter Schools  
Annual Conference**  
February 25-27, 2026  
Denver Marriott Tech Center

**FORWARD  
TOGETHER**   
**2026**

*"If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together."  
— African proverb*



# (32) The Great Reset Getting the Train Back on Track

Merlin Holmes, Executive Director  
Legacy Academy

Evergreen A  
February 26, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 12 PM  
Schools and Leadership



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We make it our priority to **advocate** for high-quality public **charter schools** across Colorado.



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# THE GREAT RESET

Getting the train back on track



# **How Legacy Academy was able to improve student growth and achievement:**

**1. The Challenge**

**2. Setting the Stage**

**3. Specific Challenges**

**4. Implementation Struggles**

**5. The Results**

# 1. The Challenge

**a. Student Growth - Post COVID Malaise**

**b. Teaching on an Island**

**c. Unprofessional Culture in Places**

**d. Stay the “School of Choice” in Our Community**



## **2. Setting the Stage – with various stakeholders**

**a. Administration Conversation**

**b. Involving Key Teachers**

**c. Board Support and Backing**

**d. Staff Meeting Announcements**



# **3. Specific Changes**

**a. Classroom Management - Capturing Kids Hearts**

**b. Staff Culture - Social Contract**

**c. Lesson Planning - Organization Around Objectives**

**d. The Cycle of Improvement**

# 4. Implementation Struggles

a. High Buy-In, but Not Everyone

b. Standing on the Brakes

c. Staying Consistent

d. Mid-Year Breakthrough

# 5. The Results

**a. Community Impressions**

**b. Record Enrollment**

**c. Higher Quantity and Quality of Candidates**

**d. The SPF - How Sweet It is!!!**



**“  
Your  
feedback  
helps us all  
move forward  
together**



**Colorado League of  
Charter Schools**

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