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GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO

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Welcome to the October Great Schools Colorado Newsletter:

October is full of ways to strengthen and support Colorado's charter school community. From the new Technical Assistance Pipeline Survey and discounted Annual Conference registration to fresh board governance tools, partner financing options, and timely policy updates, this month's highlights are designed to help your school grow, sustain, and lead with confidence.

Technical Assistance Pipeline Survey

Looking to strengthen or expand your charter school? Complete the brief [Pipeline Survey](#) to be considered for **CSP Grant-funded technical assistance** that supports growth, quality, and long-term sustainability.

Eligible schools may receive targeted support to improve outcomes, enhance organizational health, and prepare for future growth.

[Take the Pipeline Survey](#)

Questions? Contact Bill Knous at bknous@coloradoleague.org.

ICYMI: Leadership Summit 2025

From leveraging data to rethinking special education readiness, [Leadership Summit 2025](#) brought together educators and leaders for a full day of learning, connection, and inspiration.

Highlights included:

- Keynote: **Dale Wilsher** on overcoming “hurry sickness” and leading with clarity.
- Legislative Preview: **Senate President James Coleman** and **Minority Leader Jarvis Caldwell** on issues shaping the 2026 session.
- Polling Insights: New **statewide data on charter school** and choice perceptions.



Thanks to CSP support, subgrantees attended free of charge—an ongoing investment in leadership development and innovation.

If you missed it or want a recap, check out the [full gallery](#) and [workshop decks](#)!

Register Now: 2026 Annual Conference

Join us at the [2026 Annual Conference](#) on February 26–27, 2026 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center! Don’t miss inspiring keynotes, engaging breakout sessions, and invaluable networking with peers and partners.

To register, visit the [Annual Conference](#) webpage and click “Book Now.” Log in (if prompted), select the ticket associated with your group, and enter the corresponding discount code at checkout:



- Ticket: **Authorizers** → Code: **Authorizers-AC26**
- Ticket: **Great Schools Colorado Current Sub-Grantees** → Code: **GSCSubgrantees-AC26**
- Ticket: **Great Schools Colorado (GSC) Pipeline Cohort** → Code: **GSCPipeline-AC26** (must complete the [Technical Assistance Pipeline Survey](#) to qualify)

Once your discount code is applied, continue through the prompts to finalize your booking. You'll receive a confirmation email when your registration is complete.

[Register today](#)

Charter School Board Governance Playbook

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has developed a [Charter School Board Governance Playbook](#) — a comprehensive, [240-page resource](#) designed to strengthen board leadership, improve oversight, and navigate the unique challenges of charter governance.

Alongside the playbook, the League has revamped its free, asynchronous, and publicly available Charter School Board Training Modules, which will soon be available on the League's website.

These updated modules include:

- **6 Modules / 24 Lessons / 6 Case Studies**
- Practical tools, templates, and **resources**
- Integration with the Governance Playbook to **support real-world application**

Both the playbook and [training modules](#) are designed for sub-grantees and all charter school board members, and will be accessible through the League's free trainings page.



Partner Highlights: Collaborating for Impact

This month, we're spotlighting our partnership with **Alpine Bank**, offering **flexible line-of-credit options** to help charter schools manage startup and



expansion costs while awaiting grant reimbursements. Through this collaboration, schools can cover essential expenses such as furniture, technology, or curriculum materials — borrowing only what's needed and making interest-only payments until grant funds are disbursed.

Schools interested in learning more or starting an application can contact our dedicated partners at Alpine Bank's Cherry Creek office:

- **Margaux Askeland**, EVP, Lender/Manager — MargauxAskeland@alpinebank.com
- **Ian Schierland**, VP, Lender — IanSchierland@alpinebank.com

This collaboration, supported through the Great Schools Colorado-Charter Schools Program, helps ensure every subgrantee has the financial tools to launch and grow strong schools across Colorado.

Policy Pulse: What's Happening Nationally

As of October 1, 2025, the federal government entered a partial shutdown, and while many core Department of Education functions have been paused, some grant-related operations remain intact. ([Education Week](#))



Here's what this means for charter schools and CSP subgrantees:

- **No new grant awards or discretionary activities** are being processed.
- Sub-grantees can still draw down funds from existing awards.
- Compliance monitoring and technical assistance may be paused or limited.
- Core formula funds (Title I, IDEA) remain available.


In Colorado, this means temporary delays in processing new CSP actions, including supplemental funding. Once operations resume, we'll share full guidance and next steps.

Connecting Charter Leaders Across Colorado

Charter leaders in the **Northern Colorado region** are gathering this month for a [networking happy hour](#), hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools.



 *Mash Lab Brewing & Kitchen, Windsor, CO*

 *October 23, 6:00–7:30 p.m. MDT*

[Register here](#)

Events like these foster collaboration, shared learning, and community among leaders shaping the future of education.

Final Notes & Office Reminders

As always, reach out anytime:

- General inquiries: greatschools@coloradoleague.org
- Technical assistance: gscsupport@coloradoleague.org

Out of Office Notices:

- Tanesha and Dawna: October 20-23 (NACSA Conference, Houston, TX)
- Bright: October 27-31 (Parental Leave)

**— The Great Schools Team at the
Colorado League of Charter Schools**

Tanesha, Bright, and Dawna

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