Colorado League of Charter Schools

News

insights for Colorado's charter schools

www.coloradoleague.org

August 21, 2026

Starting the year with a look at what matters

As schools across Colorado welcome students back, fresh data and important policy conversations lead the way. Colorado's latest CMAS results show gains in math alongside challenges in literacy, while charter authorization, accountability and the future of E-Rate funding are also shaping the education landscape.

Join us for our first Town Hall of the school year today at 10 AM. You'll get updates on charter funding, the new federal tax credit, and key legislation impacting schools.

Please submit your articles and updates by Thursday at noon each week for inclusion.

Top News



19th August 2026

Colorado's 2026 CMAS scores: See how your school and district did

Chalkbeat

New state test results show math scores continued to rise for Colorado elementary and middle school students,

with eighth graders making the biggest gains year over year.



19th August 2026

2026 CMAS results: CO students gain in math, fall behind in reading

Denver Post

Language arts proficiency rates dropped for half of the grades that took Colorado's latest statewide achievement tests, while rates in mathematics held steady or increased.



18th August 2026

Summit School District changes policy during active efforts to open charter schools, prompting complaint

Summit Daily

Summit School District Superintendent says timeline change complies with state law while High Rockies Community School claims district must oblige original August deadline.



18th August 2026

Controversial group that opened ‘Colorado’s first public Christian school’ will close after 13 years

Chalkbeat

An education group that last year authorized “Colorado’s first public Christian school” soon will dissolve, following a Monday night vote by a key member institution.



13th August 2026

Meet the Newest Charter Schools Opening Across Colorado

New campuses. New learning opportunities. New possibilities for Colorado students. Get to know the schools joining the charter community this fall.

Local Views



FCC review could end school internet programs. Advocates plan ‘very loud’ protest

The 74 | August 19

As the screen time debate continues, the commission seeks comments on whether the 30-year-old E-Rate program should be ‘limited or sunset.’

Childhood vax rates slip

Axios | August 19

Colorado's vaccination rates for kindergartners dipped across the board in the 2025-

26 school year, while exemptions continued their post-pandemic rise, new CDC data shows.

Phone-free classrooms



Axios | August 17

Denver Public Schools students return to class next Monday with a new rule: No mobile phones in class — at least not until the final bell rings.

Denver Public Schools will ask voters to approve $44 million mill levy override in November

Denver Post | August 14

Denver Public Schools will ask voters to approve a nearly $44 million mill levy override in November's election so the district can gather more money for employee raises and to expand mental health and education programs.

Yes, there are bright spots, but new state test results show Colorado is far from number one

Boardhawk | August 20

Colorado Governor Jared Polis, referring to a highly questionable national magazine rating, says in today's state testing press release that Colorado is number one in education.

Member Highlights

Kwiyagat Community Academy welcomes students back to school for its sixth year



The Journal | August 19

Kwiyagat Community Academy in Towaoc is welcoming students back to school for its sixth year.

A look inside AXIS International Academy's new school in Fort Collins

Coloradan | August 18

AXIS International Academy's new school is ready in time to welcome students for the start of the 2026-27 school year.

Northern Colorado has 5 of the best public elementary schools in Colorado

KEKBFM | August 18



With Colorado having over 1,500 public elementary schools, having five around the Fort Collins/Northern Colorado area make the top 100 is an accomplishment.

St. Vrain Community Montessori will serve students in new Longmont building

Yahoo | August 15

Students enrolled at St. Vrain Community Montessori School in Longmont can look forward to starting the academic year in a building made just for them.

Colorado Springs to see new charter schools open this fall

Denver Gazette | July 27

Colorado Springs will see three new charter schools open this fall. Two will welcome their first-ever students, while one will begin its first year as a charter rather than a contract school.

National Views

Education's ambulance-at-the-bottom problem

Fordham Institute | August 20

Why do schools so often step in only after students are already struggling? A shift toward prevention could make all the difference.

Can charter schools survive universal school choice?



Fordham Institute | August 20

Echoing Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's sentiments distancing herself from wokeness, a common sentiment among reformers seems to be that the bipartisan education reform era was "craazzy."

Survey: 5 ways AI is cutting into students' ability to learn

The 74 | August 18

In new work from Common Sense Media, many teens acknowledge AI is changing how they think, with schools providing few safeguards.

Measles cases hit 35-year record high just as kids head back to school

The 74 | August 5

South Carolina and Utah account for half of the 2026 cases. In S.C., 50 districts are already back in session and Utah schools are soon to follow.



Did You Know?



Our Lowest Pricing Ends Soon for Annual Conference and Leadership Summit

Our lowest pricing for Leadership Summit 2026 and Annual Conference 2027 is available now! Book now to save.

Community Announcements

New for Members: 2026 Policy One-Pagers

Our 2026 Policy One-Pagers are now available, providing members with quick, easy-to-reference summaries of key legislation impacting Colorado charter schools. Log in to your League account to explore the latest one-pagers and understand what these new policies mean for your school.

Ascent Classical Academy Seeks Marketing Partner

Ascent Classical Academy Charter Schools is seeking a marketing and communications consultant or firm to develop an integrated strategy supporting enrollment, fundraising, and network growth. Qualified consultants, fractional CMOs, and agencies are invited to submit proposals by August 31 at 5:00 PM MT.

Learning Opportunities

Save the Date: 2026 Elevating Excellence Conference (Nov. 17-18)

Join CDE on November 17–18, 2026, for the free Elevating Excellence Conference: Excellence by Design: Innovate, Elevate, Impact. The conference will bring together educators and leaders to explore high-leverage practices, effective improvement

systems, and strategies for leveraging state and federal funds to improve student outcomes.

New Colorado IEP Parent Training Available (On-demand)

CDE has launched a new online Colorado IEP Parent Training designed to support families' meaningful participation in the special education process. The training includes 10 modules covering the IEP process, parent and student rights, and state and federal special education requirements. Schools may wish to share this resource with families and special education staff.

Resources & Grants

High School Success Partnerships

Colorado high schools can partner with the Center for High School Success (CHSS), a national nonprofit focused on improving student outcomes through 9th grade. With significant funding available to offset implementation costs, participating schools can access proven strategies to boost attendance, increase on-track rates, strengthen school culture, and improve graduation outcomes. To learn more or express interest, contact Gina Yacovetta at gyacovetta@highschoolsuccess.org.

Free State Grant Database for Charter Schools

Charter schools can access a free, centralized state grant database through Communities Lead Communities Thrive. The tool streamlines the search for state grants to support school programs and initiatives, with free access available after creating an account.

Share your Input on School Cell Phone Policies

Educators are invited to participate in Phones in Focus, a brief national survey examining how cell phone policies are working in schools. The confidential survey takes about five minutes to complete, and schools with at least five teacher responses will receive a summary report, with participants also entered to win a $500 gift card.

CDE Schools of Choice Updates

Upcoming State Board Rulemaking Hearings

The State Board of Education is preparing for several rulemaking hearings this fall, including rules related to part-time programs for homeschool students, school finance, and the Exceptional Children's Educational Act. Hearings are expected during the Board's October and November meetings.

Public Hearing on State Publications Rules

The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing during its Oct. 14–15 meeting on proposed updates to the State Publications Depository and Distribution Center rules. The revisions would modernize the rules, reflect current library practices, and align them with state accessibility requirements; members of the public may submit written comments or sign up to testify.

Proposed Updates to READ Act

Proposed revisions to the READ Act rules would align requirements with Senate Bill 25-200, including universal dyslexia screening for students in kindergarten through third grade. The updates also address READ plans and parent involvement, minimum reading competency levels, and the review process for approved reading assessments.

Reminder for New Board Members

New charter school board members are required to take, sign, and file an oath of office within 80 days of joining a board, pursuant to Colorado statute. Schools should work directly with their county clerk's office for submission instructions and can contact CDE with questions regarding the requirement.

Partner Spotlight

BuyQ

BuyQ helps charter schools do more with their money. Learn more

Upcoming Events



21 August 2026

Town Hall August 2026

Stay informed with timely, expert-led conversations on the issues shaping Colorado charter schools.

Town Hall



28 August 2026

Annual Finance Seminar 2026

Join Colorado charter school finance, operations, and school leadership professionals for a day of practical learning, peer collaboration, and charter-specific resources designed to support effective school operations and long-term sustainability.

Major events, 1635 W 13th Ave, Denver, CO 80204



2 October 2026

Leadership Summit 2026

Join charter school leaders, advocates, and partners from across Colorado for a day focused on the future of education, leadership, advocacy, and innovation.

Major events, 1672 Lawrence St, Denver, CO 80202

View more

Health & Wellness

Build a Sustainable Wellness Program

During this session, we will explore strategies for building, supporting, and sustaining a wellness champion program that can drive meaningful impact at your school over time. Register now.

Out-of-School Time + Youth Well-Being: A Panel Conversation

In this free virtual panel, out-of-school time leaders, mental health partners and young people will discuss what a healthy afterschool environment looks like in youth's own words. Register now.

School Staff Wellbeing Meetings

The CoP brings together professionals from across Colorado who are passionate about supporting the wellbeing of school staff for the 2026-27 Colorado School Staff Wellbeing Community of Practice (CoP).

More Health & Wellness

Careers

5-8 Counselor - Student Support Services/Guidance Counselor

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $52,378 - 75,848 per year

Closing date: Jun 17, 2026 02:20 PM

New Vision Charter School, Loveland, CO

Assistant Principal - Elementary

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $65,000 - 85,000 per year

Closing date: Jun 21, 2026 04:32 PM

Legacy Academy, Legacy Academy

Business Manager

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $65,000 - 75,000 per year

Closing date: Jun 30, 2026 12:00 AM

Compass for Lifelong Discovery, Compass for Lifelong Discovery

View all jobs

Recent League Newsletters

Stay connected with the latest charter school news, events, policy updates, and resources by logging in to subscribe to the League's newsletters.

- ADVOCACY NETWORK (August 20, 2026)
- NEWS (June 5, 2026) (weekly)
- MOVE (August 14, 2026) (monthly)
- LEGISLATIVE MATTERS (May 13, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (May 28, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (May 21, 2026)
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