Colorado League of Charter Schools

MOVE
insights for Colorado's charter schools
www.coloradoleague.org

August 14, 2026

A new school year, a shared impact

As a new school year begins, Colorado's charter community is coming together around the opportunities, challenges, and shared work ahead. This month, we explore the evolving conversation around school choice and Colorado's education success, share strategies for turning school stories into greater visibility, and highlight the connection between school nutrition and student success.

In addition, this month's Town Hall (Aug. 21) and Annual Finance Seminar (Aug. 28) serve to help schools start the year informed, connected, and ready to make an impact.

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

The Board Corner: Our Impact at a Critical Nexus

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:
Greetings and Welcome back,

I trust your summer was filled with resting,
recharging, and planning for the coming year.
My summer seemed to be dominated by
World Cup watch parties, Danish rowing, and

attempting to learn how offside actually works. At a Dutch supporter pep rally, my daughter and I learned the “Links Rechts” fan dance. It is the perfect blend for me of describing the motion and direction of each move (think Cha Cha Slide), but it was in another language. We needed translation, coaching, visual models, and encouragement.



1. Get Close – Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with friends or strangers in a tight crowd and hold onto each other's shoulders or waist.
2. Listen for the Cue – Wait for the heavy beat drop and the vocal cue *“Naar links!”* (To the left!) or *“Naar rechts!”* (To the right!).
3. Jump in Unison – Hop sideways together in the shouted direction.
4. Reverse – Switch directions immediately when the song calls out the opposite side, keeping the rhythm going back and forth.
5. (if you missed it, check it out here; it’s in English)

How will your team play?

What we later watched from the champion Spanish team was the result of years of implementing a specific style together. La Roja, as they are known, developed an intense defensive mentality which resulted in only one goal allowed throughout the entire tournament.



David Gutierrez, Director of the National School of Coaches and the Spanish Football Association, describes the mentality shift: “We’re probably neither the fastest nor the strongest, but there’s one area where we excel – which we emphasize heavily when we’re educating coaches – and that’s understanding how to play together as a unit.”

Community and Togetherness

As we go into the school year, I hope you have your own version of ‘Naar links,’ ‘Naar rechts,’ and ‘playing together as a unit.’ The charter community is both one large team and many smaller ones. Our own individual communities, schools, networks, and classes of students need their own coaching, sometimes a mentality shift, and a huge team behind them doing the Links Rechts.

This year’s work at the League

This year, the League is beginning two important bodies of work that will help shape that future and help us support you by playing together as a stronger team.

First, we are developing the 2027 Legislative Agenda. This agenda will be critical in identifying the policy priorities that matter most to our schools and students. It must reflect the real experiences of our members, the challenges you are facing, and the opportunities we see ahead. It must be bold, practical, student-centered, and rooted in the belief that charter schools are an essential part of Colorado’s public education system.

Second, we are beginning work on a new strategic plan to guide the League in 2027 and beyond. This plan will help define where we focus our energy, how we support our members, how we strengthen the broader charter ecosystem, and how we measure our collective success in the years ahead.



Both efforts will require your voice.

The League cannot define the future of Colorado’s charter movement in isolation. Our strength comes from our members. It comes from the diversity of our schools, the expertise of our leaders, the commitment of our educators, the perspective of our families, and the outcomes of our students. As we build a legislative agenda and a strategic plan for the future, we will listen carefully, engage meaningfully, and remain grounded in the needs of the schools and students we serve.

The work ahead will require clarity, courage, and unity.

We must be clear about our impact. We must be courageous in advocating for the policies and conditions our schools need. And we must remain united around the shared purpose that brought so many of us into this work: ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality public education that meets their needs and helps them thrive.



Across Colorado, I see what is possible when school communities are mission-driven, student-centered, and committed to continuous growth. The collective impact of 262+ charter schools serving 136,000+ students is extraordinary. But the question before us now is how we build on that impact for the next generation through, might I say, a ‘Naar links’ mentality?

What will our impact be in 2027 and beyond?

I believe it will be powerful — if we shape it together.

Thank you for the work you do every day on behalf of students and families. Thank you for your leadership, your persistence, and your belief in what charter public schools can make possible. I look forward to working alongside you as we define, strengthen, and expand our impact in the years ahead.



With gratitude,

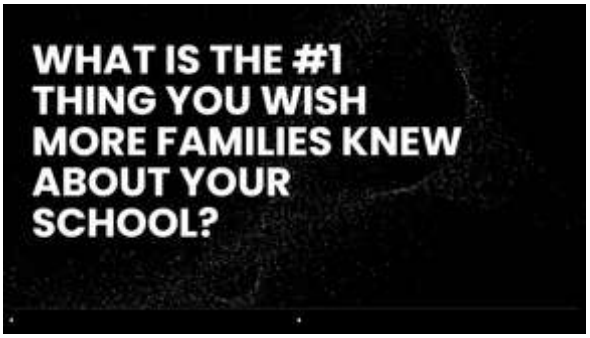
Casey McComsey
Board Chair, Colorado League of Charter Schools
Chief of Strategy, Atlas Schools

Spotlight



Colorado's #1 Education Ranking Shows Why School Choice Works

Public charter schools and family choice have helped make Colorado the nation's top-ranked state for education.



Turning Great Stories into Greater Visibility with Earned Media

Discover how charter schools can use earned media, not paid advertising, to build trust, strengthen their reputation, and reach more prospective families using stories they're already living.



More Than Lunch: The Hidden Link Between School Kitchens + Student Success

A commercial dishwasher may not seem like a student success strategy—but for many rural Colorado charter schools, it's exactly that.



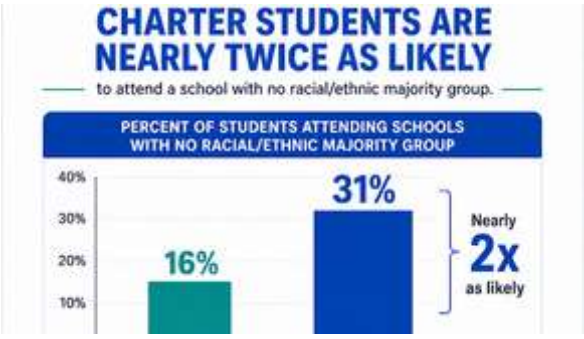
Meet the Newest Charter Schools Opening Across Colorado

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



Start the School Year Informed: August Town Hall & Finance Updates

Start the school year informed with the League's August Town Hall, featuring timely updates on school finance, federal tax credits, Bond Equity, key legislation, and resources to help charter schools navigate what's ahead.



Colorado's School Choice Debate Is Increasingly Detached From Reality

Colorado's public education landscape has changed dramatically, and new enrollment data challenges many long-held assumptions about school choice and charter schools.

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

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

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

Fransen Pittman Construction

Driven by a desire to be a different breed of builder, Fransen Pittman does more than simply build buildings.

Top News

Denver voters will consider $44 million tax increase to raise school employee pay

Chalkbeat | August 13

Denver voters will be asked in November to approve a $44 million tax increase to benefit the city's public schools. This would include money for charter schools.

Colorado students push AI task force as schools navigate new tech era

Denver Gazette | August 11

A group of students is urging lawmakers to establish a task force on artificial intelligence in education to advise districts on how to ensure that pupils and educators use the technology effectively without becoming overly reliant on it.

Major virtual tutoring provider shuts down; experts cite lack of evidence



The 74 | August 10

As students head back to class across the country, Varsity Tutors for Schools, one of the nation's largest providers, has gone out of business.

Absenteeism is a major problem. So why can't schools agree on how to measure it?

The 74 | August 10

It's 2026. Satellites connect to devices in our pockets, artificial intelligence algorithms can drive cars and scan X-rays, and Homer's 3,000-year-old poem is the basis for the summer's hottest movie.

Amid a challenging year for western Colorado producers, expanded school meal funding offers a lifeline



Vail Daily | August 7

New tax revenue approved last year by voters will help districts buy food from local farms and ranches.

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

The 74 | August 5

As millions of kids across the country prepare to head back to school — and many

have already returned — the national count of measles cases continues to climb, reaching its highest number in 35 years.



Oklahoma Jewish charter case heads to court as debate spreads to other states

The 74 | August 4

In Florida, the attorney general says he won't enforce laws preventing religious charter schools.

****GOAL High School forum brings nearly 700 Staff together for professional learning**

Pagosa Daily | August 3

Nearly 700 employees from across Colorado gathered July 28-29 at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield for GOAL High School's annual Forum, a two-day event focused on professional learning, collaboration, networking, and celebration.



Colorado now ranks No. 1 for education, according to US News. Here's how we got to the top

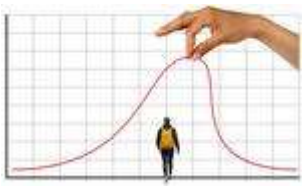
Denver Post | July 30

Before I became governor, Colorado ranked 18th in education. Last year, we ranked third. Colorado is now No. 1, according to the just-released comprehensive measures used by U.S. News & World Report.

Colorado's preschool program is reaching lots of kids but needs to focus on quality, new evaluation says

Chalkbeat | July 30

Colorado's free preschool program has been popular with families since it launched three years ago, but state leaders need to raise the bar on quality.



Settling scores: Experts debate why AP performance has soared

The 74 | July 27

A few years ago, education experts noticed that scores were climbing upwards on a number of Advanced Placement tests. The increases,

measured on some of the program's most popular assessments, were as significant as they were unexpected.

***Charters in the news*

League 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



3 September 2026

Regional Gathering: Douglas County

Join your Douglas County Charter School leaders for a League Hosted Happy Hour.

Regional Gatherings, 9977 Sky Ridge Ave. #240 Lone Tree, CO 80124



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.

More Health & Wellness

Careers

For a full list of current job opportunities at charter schools across the state, or to post your school's openings, please visit our Career Center.

High School Graphic Arts (Technology) Teacher - 26/27 School Year

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $52,000 - 79,126 per year

Closing date: Jun 15, 2026 12:00 AM

Eagle Ridge Academy, Brighton, CO

School Counselor

Contract type: Part-Time

Salary: $55,000 - 78,286 per year

Closing date: Jun 18, 2026 12:00 AM

Excel Academy Charter School, Excel Academy Charter School



Gifted & Talented Teacher

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $58,000 per year

Closing date: Jun 26, 2026 12:00 AM

Cherry Creek Academy, 6260 S Dayton Street, Englewood, CO 80111

View all jobs

Recent League Newsletters



- ADVOCACY NETWORK (May 20, 2026)
- NEWS (June 5, 2026)
- MOVE (June 12, 2026)
- LEGISLATIVE MATTERS (May 13, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (May 28, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (May 21, 2026)
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