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# GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO

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*Welcome to the November Great Schools Colorado Newsletter:*

November brings a renewed focus on connection, recognition, and the important work ahead. This month's updates highlight new CSP subgrantees, upcoming regional and statewide gatherings, impactful Technical Assistance partners, and important policy developments shaping the work ahead. We're grateful for your partnership and excited to share what's happening across Great Schools Colorado.

## Funding Focus: FY25 CSP New and Expansion Subgrantees Announced

We are pleased to share the **15 charter schools** selected for funding through the FY25 Charter Schools Program (CSP) New and Expansion competition. These schools represent new startups as well as strategic expansion efforts across Colorado, strengthening high-quality charter options and access for more families statewide.

Individual school profiles and award details will be posted on the [GSC website](#) soon.

### FY25 New and Expansion Subgrantees Include:

- East Hills Academy (New)
- Spruce Community School (New)
- Independence Classical Academy (New)
- VIVO Colorado (New)
- John Adams Academy (New)
- Montrose Classical Academy (New)
- High Rockies Community School (New)

- Lotus School for Excellence (Expansion)
- St. Vrain Community Montessori School (Expansion)
- University Prep (Expansion)
- AXL Academy (Expansion)
- Liberty Common Junior High School (Expansion)
- Montessori del Mundo (Expansion)
- Crown Pointe Academy (Expansion)
- Steamboat Montessori (Expansion)

Future Funding Focus sections will continue to spotlight grant management practices, compliance alignment reminders, and implementation tools to support a strong federal fiscal posture throughout this upcoming grant cycle.

### TA Spotlight: National Charter Schools Institute featuring Heather Wendling

The National Charter Schools Institute (NCSI) is partnering with GSC to lead School Quality Reviews (SQRs) for subgrantees. Led by Heather Wendling, Vice President of Professional Services, NCSI brings national expertise working with authorizers, boards, and charter leaders to support stronger school quality and accelerate improvement.



#### How this supports CSP goals:

- Grounding continuous improvement in evidence-based observation and actionable feedback
- Streamlining SQR logistics, consistency, and expectations for schools
- Improving usability of findings to drive real instructional and operational quality gains
- Strengthening statewide alignment across SQR implementation while protecting school capacity

Heather will serve as the primary Institute contact for subgrantees this year coordinating scheduling and SQR logistics and ensuring this process supports improvement, not just compliance. For immediate questions about the subgrantee-

related SQRs, please contact the GSC Grant Team at [greatschools@coloradoleague.org](mailto:greatschools@coloradoleague.org).

## Connecting Charter Leaders Across the Denver Metro

Charter leaders in the **Denver Metro region** are coming together this December for a [networking happy hour](#), hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools.



 **Recess Beer Garden, Denver, CO**

 **December 2, 6:00–7:30 p.m. MDT**

These [regional gatherings](#) create space for collaboration, meaningful connections, and shared learning among leaders shaping the future of public charter education in Colorado.

[Register here](#)

## Policy Pulse: What's Happening Nationally

Congress approved a continuing resolution that reopened the federal government and reversed proposed staffing cuts to the Charter Schools Program (CSP) office. With CSP applications doubling this year, the [National Alliance For Public Charter Schools](#) notes this decision helps protect timely investments for the nearly **4 million students** attending charter schools, many from low-income communities.



The Alliance will continue working with Congress to strengthen and expand the CSP so more students nationwide can access high-quality public school options.

## Business & Operations Networking Cohort – Quarterly Learning Community

The League has officially launched its **Quarterly Business & Operations Networking Cohort**, a CDE-mandated learning community for all CSP grant recipients — and open to any charter school Business Manager, Director of Operations, or Finance Leader across Colorado. Each two-hour session features subject matter experts who share timely guidance, best practices, and strategies that strengthen financial health and operational stability.



If you missed the November 20 launch session, you can still join us for the upcoming meetings and access recordings and materials.

## Upcoming Meetings

- **February 19, 2026 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM MDT**

*Tech & AI in the Back Office*

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81769591217>

- **May 21, 2026 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM MDT**

*Preparing for a Successful Audit*

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82504305202>

## Missed the first meeting?

- **November 20, 2025 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM MDT**

*Facility Grants*

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84080371694>

- The meeting recording will be posted to the Cohort Learning Community: [\*\*Quarterly Business & Operations Networking Cohort\*\*](#)

For questions about the cohort, please contact [\*\*business@coloradoleague.org\*\*](mailto:business@coloradoleague.org). For general Learning Communities inquiries, reach out to [\*\*schoolservices@coloradoleague.org\*\*](mailto:schoolservices@coloradoleague.org).

## 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 registration Page](#) and click "Book Now." Log in (if prompted), select the ticket associated with your group, and enter the corresponding discount code at checkout:

**The Colorado Charter Schools Annual Conference**  
February 26-27, 2026  
Denver Marriott Tech Center



- **Authorizers** → Code: [Authorizers-AC26](#)
- **Great Schools Colorado Current Sub-Grantees** → Code: [GSCSubgrantees-AC26](#)
- **\*Great Schools Colorado Technical Assistance Pipeline schools** (schools that have completed the GSC Technical Assistance Pipeline Survey) → Code: [GSCPipeline-AC26](#)

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.

*\*If you are interested in the GSC Technical Assistance Pipeline discount and have not yet completed the survey, please [complete the GSC Technical Assistance Pipeline Survey](#) first. Eligible schools will receive the GSCPipeline-AC26 discount code after submitting the survey.*

[\*\*Register Today\*\*](#)

## Final Notes & Office Reminders

As always, reach out anytime:

- General inquiries: [greatschools@coloradoleague.org](mailto:greatschools@coloradoleague.org)

- Technical assistance: [gscsupport@coloradoligue.org](mailto:gscsupport@coloradoligue.org)

## Out of Office

- Thanksgiving/Holiday Break - 26-28 (League offices will be closed)  
**— The Great Schools Team at the  
Colorado League of Charter Schools**  
*Tanesha, Bright, and Dawn*

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