Colorado League of Charter Schools

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

October 9, 2026

Connected by purpose, moving forward together

After a Leadership Summit centered on Nexus, this month's MOVE looks at what Colorado's charter community can accomplish together. League President Dan Schaller calls on schools and families to turn momentum into action, and we revisit key moments from the Summit. We also spotlight students discovering local food, Liberty Common's growth and the different school models advancing student success.

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

From Momentum to Action

By Dan Schaller, League President



Earlier this month, hundreds of charter school leaders gathered for our annual Leadership Summit around a theme we chose very intentionally: **Nexus**.

A nexus is both a connection point and a crossroads — a place where different paths converge and where choices about what comes next matter.

That feels like an especially fitting description of where Colorado's charter school community stands today.

There is much to celebrate. Nine new charter schools opened this fall. Charter enrollment grew last year even as non-charter public schools collectively lost more than 10,000 students. And preliminary SPF results show charter schools continuing a multiyear trend of promising academic performance, including for students who have historically been furthest from educational opportunity.

There is real momentum. Families continue to seek out the innovative, high-quality public school options our sector provides.

But momentum alone does not determine what comes next.

Advocacy is Leadership



Colorado is entering a period of significant political change, with a new governor next year, substantial turnover at the Capitol and the possibility of legislative supermajorities in both chambers. At the same time, we continue to see proposals that could fundamentally alter Colorado's Charter Schools Act and make it harder for schools to open, expand or renew.

This is a moment when our community must be connected, united and engaged.

That message came through clearly during a Leadership Summit panel I moderated with four charter leaders who have made advocacy part of how they lead their schools.

Their experiences were different, but their message was remarkably consistent: **Advocacy is relationship-building.**

It's inviting a legislator or school board member into your building before you need something from them. It's helping elected officials understand who your students are and why families chose your school. It's giving students and parents opportunities to tell their own stories. And it's building those relationships over time so that when

important decisions are being made, policymakers already understand the communities those decisions will affect.

As panelist Rick Hauan reminded us, advocacy isn't simply going in to "fight for something." It is about building connections with legislators, policymakers and community leaders — connections that can ultimately result in change.

And school leaders cannot — and should not — be the only voices in that conversation.

Building a Bigger, Stronger Voice

Colorado's charter community serves more than 137,000 students. Behind those students are families who chose their schools for a reason. They know firsthand what those schools mean to their children and communities.



Imagine the impact if more of them were part of the conversation.

One way we are beginning to explore it is through CIVIC — Charter Involvement and Voice in Colorado.

CIVIC is a new pilot program designed to help participating schools engage more families in advocacy through the communication channels and trusted relationships they already have. The response from schools was immediate, and the pilot has nearly reached capacity.

The premise is intentionally simple. CIVIC is not about partisan politics. It is about civic participation — making families aware of opportunities to connect with elected officials, understand legislation affecting their schools and communities, and share their own experiences and perspectives.

The League will provide participating schools with timely information and content they can easily share with families through channels they already use. The goal is to learn from this initial group of schools while beginning to build something much

bigger: a stronger, more connected network of charter school advocates across Colorado.

And there are opportunities for all of us to engage right now.



Join us for the League's next Town Hall on Friday, October 16 at 10 AM., where we'll look ahead to what the upcoming election could mean for Colorado charter schools and the 2027 Legislative Session. We'll discuss issues on the 2026 ballot, how the League is preparing for the session ahead, the latest on the new federal tax credit and more.

Or consider bringing a group of students to our 2027 Advocacy Day at the State Capitol for a lesson on civics in action.

Because our strength isn't simply that Colorado has hundreds of charter schools. It is the students, parents, educators, board members and communities behind them.

We are individual schools with different missions, models and communities. But we are also one statewide charter community. This is our nexus — and our opportunity.

At the Summit, I left our leaders with a question. I'll leave you with the same one:

What can we accomplish next — and what becomes possible when we do it together?

Spotlight





Local Food Opens Students' Eyes — and Palates

Local food is helping students at the Academy of Charter Schools discover new flavors while connecting them to Colorado farmers and ranchers behind their meals.

Liberty Common Makes Room for Growing Demand

A $1.8 million GSC grant helped the Fort Collins charter open a standalone junior-high campus while preserving the model and culture families value.



Better Outcomes, More Choices: Colorado Charter Schools Advance Student Success

Colorado's charter schools are delivering strong outcomes while offering families diverse approaches to learning.



Leadership Summit 2026: A Day to Connect and Look Ahead

Catch up on the keynote, workshops and conversations that brought Colorado's charter school leaders together at Leadership Summit 2026.

Did You Know?



Leadership Summit 2026 Recordings & Gallery Now Live

Revisit key conversations, catch up on sessions, and see highlights from LS26.

Community Announcements

CSI Seeking Applicants for One Seat on its Board

The CSI authorizes more than 40 charter public schools and serves more than 20,000 students. The appointee will serve a three-year term starting in January 2027. The application closes on Oct. 14 at 5 p.m.

Colorado Early Colleges Celebrates 20 Years

Colorado Early Colleges invites the community to celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Cleared for Takeoff Gala, honoring two decades of student impact and looking ahead to the future. Learn more about tickets, sponsorships, and silent auction opportunities.

Learning Opportunities

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.

READ Act Training Informational Webinars (ongoing)

CDE is offering live informational webinars on required READ Act training for K-3 teachers, reading interventionists and school administrators. Visit the READ Act Teacher Training page or Principal/Administrator Training page for upcoming webinar dates, times and more information.

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

Colorado Free Application Days Return Oct. 20-22

The Colorado Department of Higher Education's Free Application Days are coming up October 20-22! Visit the website for a communications toolkit to use in your community.

Purple Star Schools Award Program

Apply for the Purple Star Schools Award Program to recognize your school's support for military-connected students and families. Applications are open Oct. 5 through Dec. 16 via GAINS, with designated schools recognized in April 2027. Visit the Purple Star Schools webpage for eligibility and application information.

FY 2027–28 BEST Grant Intent to Apply Forms Due Nov. 23

Potential applicants must complete the Intent to Apply form by Nov. 23 to be eligible to submit a grant application. For questions or help getting started, contact your Regional Program Manager through the BEST Grants contact webpage.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Applications are open for several vacancies on the Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee, including representatives from education, administration, and transition-focused organizations. Applications will remain open through January 2027.

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.

CDE Schools of Choice Updates

2026 Preliminary School Performance Frameworks Released

CDE has released the 2026 Preliminary School Performance Frameworks, giving schools an early look at performance results and key accountability indicators. Charter school leaders are encouraged to review their data, connect with their authorizer about next steps, and explore the Request to Reconsider process if applicable.

TLCC Data Relaunch Webinar Series

CDE is offering a three-part webinar series this fall to help schools and districts use TLCC educator feedback to strengthen culture, retention, and improvement planning. Sessions will be held November 5 and December 3.

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.

Partner Spotlight

BYU Independent Study

BYU Independent Study makes it possible for students across the globe to earn course credits—anytime and anywhere, at an affordable price.

Top News

America is ready for family math. Let's make it the next parenting habit

The 74 | October 8

Just as pediatricians advise parents to read to their children, they should encourage simple math activities.



Despite rise of AI, more skilled trades training needed, industry leaders say

The 74 | October 8

Millions more plumbers, electricians and mechanics needed, say CEOs of Ford and other companies, with AI as another tool for the job.

ChatGPT's 'teen mode' is unsafe for students, report concludes [paywall]

EdWeek | October 7

ChatGPT's new 'Teen Mode' makes it easy for kids to cheat on class assignments, fails to flag signs of suicidal ideation and other risky behavior, and interacts with teens as if it were a friend, concludes a review by Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization that studies youth and technology.



U.S. Department of Education investigating school districts' handling of sexual misconduct claims

Chalkbeat | October 6

The U.S. Department of Education is opening multiple investigations into the handling of staff-on-student sexual misconduct claims in school districts nationwide, including the New York City Department of Education and Jeffco Public Schools in Colorado.

Colorado public school groups are jumping in on Trump-backed tax-credit scholarship program

Chalkbeat | October 6

Colorado may be leading the way among a small band of optimists who see opportunity for public schools in a new Trump-backed tax credit that others say will spell doom.

Should Denver voters say no to DPS mill levy?

Boardhawk | October 6

I have run out of ideas about the Denver school board. As anyone who knows me will tell you, that is rare.



More than 1,200 Colorado students have earned a climate 'seal'

The Guardian | October 4

As a student at a high school not far from Denver's main airport, Anthony Muñoz wondered whether the jet fuel from airplanes flying above his campus was harming living things.

Aurora charter school celebrates major growth, student success



CBS News | October 3

There's reason to celebrate at the Lotus School in Aurora, as it's become one of the top schools for growth year to year in Colorado.

2026 Colorado voter guide: What to know about Proposition NN

Chalkbeat | October 1

Among the questions Colorado voters will consider on Nov. 3 is whether to give up tax refunds to help pay for education.

Microschools are spreading. Some school districts have opened their own [paywall]



EdWeek | September 16

In 2024, as it faced growing competition for students from private schools, nearby public school districts, and the pull of home school, the Wichita public schools in Kansas decided to try something new.

How an L.A. charter school has all but eliminated chronic absenteeism among homeless students

Los Angeles Times | September 8

Scholarship Prep South Bay, a Wilmington charter school, touts a rare benchmark of success.

***Colorado charters in the news*

League Events



16 October 2026

Town Hall October 2026

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

Town Hall



5 November 2026

Regional Gathering: Fort Collins

Join your Fort Collins Charter School leaders for a League Hosted Happy Hour.

Regional Gatherings



3 – 5 March 2027

Annual Conference 2027

Join us March 4–5, 2027, in Denver for the Colorado Charter Schools Annual Conference — the state's premier gathering for charter school leaders, educators, board members, advocates, and partners.

Major events, N Gaylord Rockies Blvd Aurora, CO 80019

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



- NEWS (October 2, 2026)
- MOVE (September 11, 2026)
- POLICY & ADVOCACY NETWORK (August 20, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (September 22, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (September 17, 2026)
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