Colorado League of Charter Schools



November 13, 2026

🎒 From Classroom Innovation to Constitutional Crossroads

With the election over, now is the time to prepare for the pivotal 2027 legislative session, and you can help. Plus, see how Battle Rock is connecting students to its agricultural community and what $2M in GSC funding is doing to help Honor Charter School open its doors. We also examine the potential implications of Supreme Court cases raising fundamental questions about religious freedom and public education funding.

Then, catch this week's headlines, from Colorado's historic school funding changes and a closely contested Jeffco ballot measure to Denver's school board vacancy and the expansion of charters into new states.

Unable to attend or access this week's **Post-Election Debrief webinar**? Register now for the repeat session happening Monday at noon. Then log on next Wed., Nov. 18 at 9AM and learn how your school can take advantage of the new federal **Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC)** and prepare for its 2027 launch.

Finally, nominations are open for our 2027 Hall of Fame. Recognize a deserving individual today!

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

The Election is Over. Our Work is Just Beginning

By Prateek Dutta, VP of Policy for the Colorado League of Charter Schools



Our schools now face one of the most consequential policy environments in years, with real risks and new opportunities. What happens next depends largely on us. Last month in MOVE, Dan challenged our community to turn momentum into action. This election has given that call new urgency.

Here's what's ahead for our schools, and where we need your help.

What the Election Means for our Schools

The biggest takeaway after the recent election is that we cannot take support for charter schools at the Capitol for granted. Every legislator needs to understand that charter schools are public schools, who our students are, and why families choose our schools. Making that case will take sustained advocacy from the League and from charter school communities across Colorado.

We know legislation is coming that would make it harder for charter schools to open, expand, or renew. Changes such as this could limit families' access to public school options that meet their children's needs, and dampen the charter sector across the state.

This is just one proposal we are aware of. There may be others. We will need this community to rally in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, please sign up for our policy and advocacy newsletter here to stay informed and ready to act.

Even with these challenges, our community has meaningful victories to build on.

Wins to Build On

Even in this changing environment, the election delivered important results for charter students.



State Board member Sherri Wright's apparent reelection preserves a supportive majority on the State Board of Education. CLCS Action provided targeted support in that race, recognizing how consequential the Board's decisions are for charter schools across Colorado.

In Colorado Springs, voters approved a District 11 bond that includes $64 million in charter school projects. CLCS Action supported that effort as well. This is the kind of inclusion we have worked towards: Charter students recognized as part of their district's public school community when facilities investments are made.

Voters also approved Proposition NN, which the League supported, to bring additional resources into public education. Schools have consistently told us that funding is a top priority, and this is an important step toward addressing that need.

The Next Chapter Starts with Relationships

Our work with incoming leaders is already underway. This fall, Governor-elect Phil Weiser visited 5280 Recovery High School in Denver and heard directly from students about their progress in recovery. He is one of *25 policymakers* participating in charter school visits this fall.



These visits help elected leaders understand what our schools make possible, and why families depend on them. Our task now is to build on those relationships and connect what policymakers have seen and heard to the decisions they will make in office.

Specifically, we'll follow these visits with one-on-one meetings with legislators, backed by district- specific "Briefing Books" that show the impact charter schools are having in their communities. Schools in our CIVIC pilot will stay engaged with their legislators throughout the session. And we're going to show up at the Capitol a lot more than our annual Advocacy Day.

Together, it's a surround-sound approach. Legislators will hear about our schools from every direction: from the League, from school leaders, and most importantly from students and families.

Every School has a Role



We will lead our advocacy at the Capitol, analyze bills, and help schools understand when and how to engage. But our effectiveness depends on policymakers hearing from the communities their decisions will affect. On that note, there are two things schools can do now:

- **Invite an elected official into your school.** Reach out to your new or returning legislators before the session begins. Give them time with students, parents, and educators, and help them understand why families chose your school and what they want to protect. Our advocacy team can help you plan a visit.
- **Make it easy for families to participate.** Share League updates and action alerts through the channels families already use, and identify parents willing to tell their stories. Assist us with gathering parent contact information for League advocacy purposes. Our CIVIC pilot (thank you to the 10 schools who have joined!) will help participating schools strengthen this work, but every school can begin building those connections now.

Every family in our schools made a choice. In the months ahead, new leaders will decide whether that choice remains available to all. They should hear from the students and parents behind it before they decide, not after.

To schedule a legislator visit or get your families involved, contact advocacy@coloradoleague.org.

The work of preparing for a pivotal 2027 legislative session starts now.

Spotlight



Bringing the Community to the Cafeteria at Battle Rock

This school is bringing locally grown food to the lunchroom, connecting students with the agricultural community around them.



Building a Foundation of Honor

With nearly $2M in GSC funding, Honor Charter School is preparing to bring a personalized, competency-based education model to families in D49.



Charter Schools at a Constitutional Crossroads

As courts weigh religious freedom and public funding, the legal definition of a public charter school could hang in the balance.



In DPS, which of 12 applicants can survive?

Twelve candidates. One pivotal school board seat. With major decisions ahead for DPS, will the board prioritize student outcomes or political power plays?

Did You Know?



EFTC Scholarship Webinar: Nov. 18

A new federal tax credit launching in January 2027 could create additional funding opportunities and scholarships for Colorado charter schools. Join the League for a free, members-only event to learn how the EFTC works and how your school can prepare.

Community Announcements



2027 Hall of Fame Nominations Now Open

Do you know someone making a lasting impact on Colorado's charter schools? Help us recognize them! Each year, the Colorado League of Charter Schools honors outstanding leaders, educators, advocates and partners who go above and beyond to expand access to high-quality public education. Nominate a deserving individual for the 2027 Hall of Fame!

New Scholarship Opportunity for Colorado Charter Schools

With Colorado opting into the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC) beginning January 2027, the League is partnering with ACE Scholarships to help schools take advantage of this opportunity. Interested in participating? Learn more about the partnership and let us know if your school plans to opt in. Then join our informational webinar next Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 9 AM.

Learning Opportunities

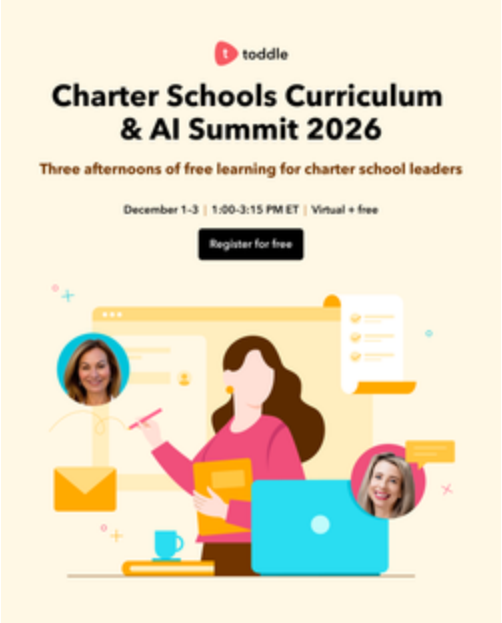


Curriculum & AI Virtual Summit (Dec. 1-3)

How can charter school leaders make smarter curriculum decisions, use AI with purpose and support teachers through change? Join Toddle and charter school practitioners from across the country for three afternoons sessions in which they will explore practical strategies for curriculum planning and AI integration to create meaningful change in your school.

TLCC Data Relaunch Webinar (Dec. 3)

This two-part series is focused on how educator feedback can drive meaningful improvement in schools and districts.



- Dec. 3: Using TLCC Data in Improvement Planning

Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Regional Trainings (Fort Morgan)

CDE is hosting its final regional training in Fort Morgan on November 17. The session will support career and academic planning and implementation of college credit, industry credentials, and work-based learning opportunities. Learn more.

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



Charter School Facility Assistance Grant Applications Open

Applications are now open for Cycle 3 of the Charter School Facility Assistance Grant Program. An informational webinar is scheduled for November 2, and required Intent to Apply and Eligibility materials are due November 30. Schools should submit a GAINS Access Request Form as soon as possible. Visit the program webpage for details and assistance.

Free Bilingual Know-Your-Rights Resources

KidsKnowRights, a youth-led nonprofit, offers free guides in English and Spanish to help teens and families understand their rights at school, at work, online, and in everyday situations. Written by high school students and reviewed by a law firm, resources include printable guides, pocket cards, and workshops. Schools can also request materials reviewed for Colorado.

Colorado Education & Workforce Data Resource

Colorado Data Connections brings together education and workforce information to help users explore connections between academic programs, employment, and earnings. School leaders and counselors can use the resource to support conversations about students' options after graduation. Explore the dashboard.

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.

Partner Spotlight

Kami App

Kami App turns the materials teachers already use, district-provided, curriculum-aligned, classroom-tested, into interactive lessons with built-in accessibility and real-time engagement for every student.

Top News



Local Headlines

Parents file lawsuit against PSD board alleging secret meetings violated state law

KUNC | November 10

A Beattie Elementary family raised nearly $14,000 through crowdfunding to sue Poudre School District, arguing the committee that recommended which schools to close or consolidate should not have deliberated behind closed doors.

House Democrats choose Jennifer Bacon to be Colorado Speaker of the House

Ark Valley Voice | November 10

Rep. Jennifer Bacon of Denver, a former educator and school board member, was

picked by House Democrats to lead the chamber and will be the first Black woman to serve as Colorado House Speaker.

Passage of two ballot measures in Colorado triggers historic shift in state funding

The 74 | November 9

Amendment 87 and Proposition NN loosen TABOR's long-standing limits and could bring the state more than $2 billion in their first full year, much of it for education..

Jeffco Public Schools Ballot Issue 5A failing by just 3 votes, preliminary results show

Colorado Public Radio/Chalkbeat | November 9

Jeffco's $73 million tax increase was behind by only three votes as of Friday's count, a margin small enough to trigger an automatic recount under state law.

****Tenmile Academy leaders appeal Summit school board's rejection of charter application to state**

Summit Daily | November 8



Organizers of the proposed classical charter school have asked the State Board of Education to overturn the Summit School District board's 4-3 vote that kept their application from being considered this year.

****Loveland Classical mourns loss of beloved PE teacher, coach**

Loveland Reporter-Herald | November 6

The Loveland Classical Schools community is remembering Tyson White, a middle and high school PE teacher and flag football coach who died unexpectedly Oct. 30 at 51.

District 11 bond on pace to be largest in El Paso County history

Colorado Springs Gazette | November 5

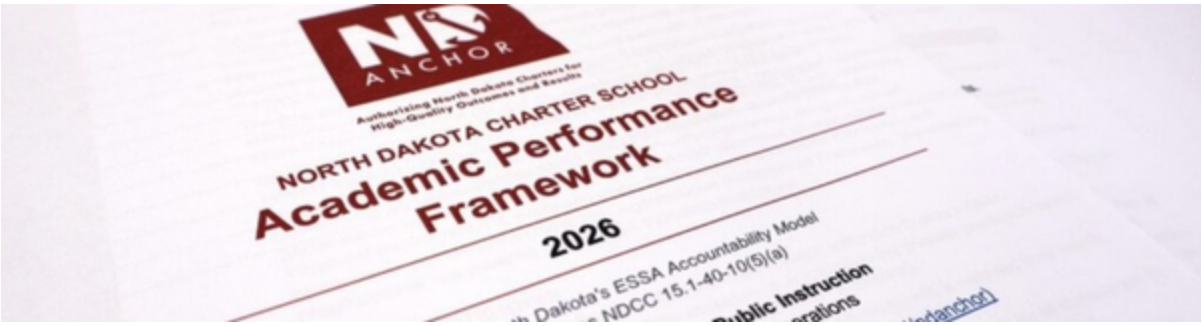
A $775 million bond for upgrades at every Colorado Springs District 11 building was holding just under 52% support in unofficial results.

12 applicants for Denver school board vacancy talk about school closures, rebuilding trust

Chalkbeat Colorado | November 5

At a public forum, the candidates for an open Denver school board seat described themselves as independent but collaborative. The board is set to appoint the new member Nov. 19.

National Views



North Dakota unveils application process for first potential charter schools

North Dakota Monito/News From The States | November 12

The state Department of Public Instruction released application materials and a timeline that could see North Dakota's first charter schools open in fall 2027, after lawmakers authorized them in 2025.

Can The Mind Trust succeed outside of Indiana? This state's charter school sector will find out

Chalkbeat | November 11

The Indianapolis nonprofit, which has helped launch more than 50 Indiana charter schools since 2006, is using a federal grant to expand into Connecticut, aiming to more than double the state's charter enrollment.

Where U.S. governors stand on school choice in 2027

EdChoice | November 11

After 36 governors' races this fall, EdChoice rates each incoming and returning governor on private school choice, including ESAs, vouchers and the new federal scholarship tax credit.

Parents protest $10 million grant cut
to LAUSD-affiliated charter schools

ABC7 Los Angeles | November 10

Families and teachers rallied at campuses and at a board meeting against a planned cut affecting 42 affiliated charter schools and nearly 25,000 students.



More communities are closing schools. The cuts may not be enough

The Hechinger Report | November 9

With birth rates falling and funding drying up, school closures are speeding up nationwide.

Court ruling opens door for religious charter school in Knoxville

WATE | November 9

A federal judge ruled that Tennessee cannot require charter schools to be nonreligious, siding with Wilberforce Academy, a Christian nonprofit seeking to open a K-8 charter in Knoxville.

After elections, Democrats will run school choice programs they've blasted

Education Week | November 5

Republican losses in the midterms will put Democrats in charge of major private school choice programs they have long criticized.

***Colorado charters in the news*

League Events



12 November 2026

Technical Assistance Info Session

Four technical assistance programs will provide targeted professional learning, individualized coaching and practical support to help charter schools address real-world challenges. Join us to learn more.

Seminars, Webinars, Convenings



16 November 2026

Post Election Debrief (Repeat)

Join us for a special, 30-minute post-election debrief for League Members.

Policy Calls



19 November 2026

Title IX Information Session

In 60 minutes, schools will learn: what Title IX requires of them today, where most charters fall short and how to use the League's Title IX training suite to close those gaps.

Title IX, Virtual



18 November 2026

EFTC Scholarship Opportunity (Members only)

Learn how your school can take advantage of the new federal Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC), access valuable resources and prepare for its 2027 launch.



19 November 2026

Regional Gathering: Glenwood Springs

Join your Glenwood Springs Charter School leaders for a League Hosted Happy Hour.

Regional Gatherings

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

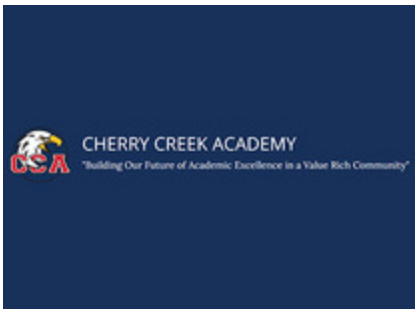
School Counselor

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 (November 6, 2026)
- MOVE (October 9, 2026)
- POLICY & ADVOCACY NETWORK (October 27, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (October 15, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (September 17, 2026)
- Follow Charter Sense on LinkedIn

Thank you to our Premium Sponsors!



















View online

Unsubscribe

© 2026 Colorado League of Charter Schools