

# Policy in Motion: Building Advocacy for 2026

October 10th, 2025

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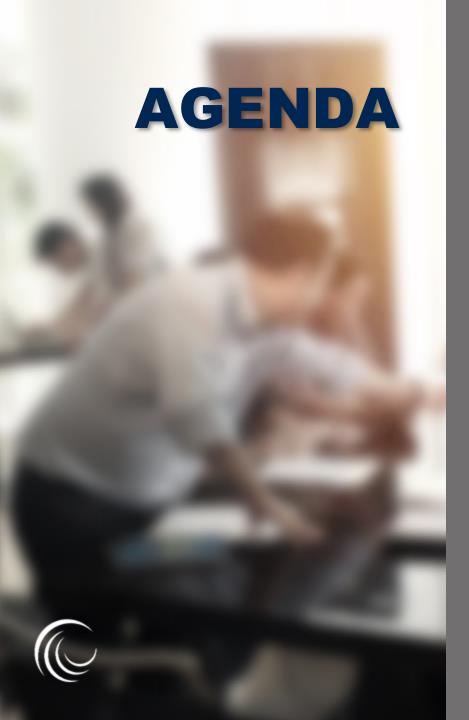








**BUILDING COLORADO'S FUTURE** 



Welcome & Room Logistics

**Meet the Advocacy Team** 

Wins

**Overview** 

Advocacy in Action

## **Your Advocacy Team**



**Kyle DeBeer** VP, Civic Affairs



Prateek Dutta VP, Policy



Anne Keke
Director, Grassroots
Advocacy



Allison Nicotera
Associate Director,
Grassroots
Advocacy

# POLICY CONTEXT - HOW WE GOT HERE

### 2025 Legislative Session Wins



Preserved or advanced charter funding across all major revenue streams



Took another step forward on facilities by increasing the cap on Moral Obligation Program to \$1B



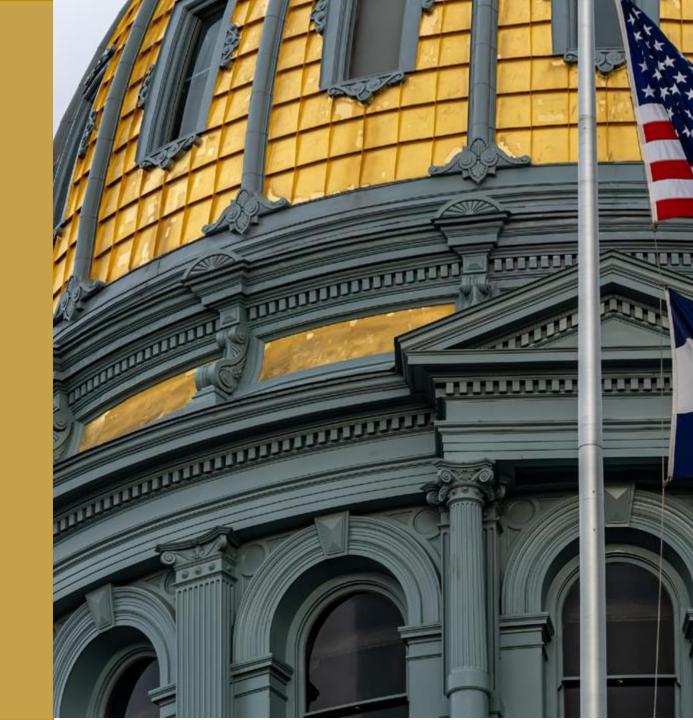
Protected the sector from what would have been the state's first-ever anti-charter State Board majority while also ensuring no major anticharter legislation saw the light of day



Defended the sector from encroachments on charter autonomy while at the same time advancing regulatory relief and AEC policy

#### 2025 Special Session

- Lawmakers approved \$250M in revenue measures about one-third of the shortfall.
- **Despite these actions**, a gap of several hundred million remained to balance the budget.
- Governor Polis proposed \$252.5M in spending cuts to balance the budget:
  - \$40M: reversal of Medicaid provider rate increases
  - \$105M: redirect Prop 123 funds
- The rest of the gap was covered by tapping into state reserves.K-12 education funding is protected this fiscal year.





**Funding** 

**Flexibility** 

**Facilities** 

## **Funding**

Discrepancy between the new funding formula (24-1448) and the Charter Schools Act.

One-Year status quo was created last year with the understanding that League will work with CASE to create a long-term solution.



#### **FLEXIBILITY**

Charter leaders across the state consistently share that duplicative and burdensome regulations are pulling time and resources away from students. From multiple improvement plans to overlapping reporting requirements, these mandates often create paperwork without adding value.

#### **QUESTION**

Where do you feel unnecessary rules and regulations get in the way of your school being able to focus on student achievement?

#### **FACILITIES**

"Of all the facilities funding...District bond money was the largest amount at \$15.5 billion (90% of total funding over the last 10 years).

Of that figure, charter schools received \$427 million (2.7% of bond funding), with the remainder spent on non-charter district facilities."

#### **QUESTION**

Statutorily, can charter schools have more involvement in local bond elections?

## YOUR VOICE

What is your greatest facilities challenge?

### YOUR VOICE

- 1) What is the largest funding inequity or challenge you continue to face?
- 1) What is one regulation or data request you feel does not impact students and that feels either unnecessary or duplicative?
- 1) How would you characterize your relationship with your authorizer? If you could change one thing about your school's current dynamic with your authorizer, what would it be?

### YOUR VOICE



Join at slido.com #3366 370

## **ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

Anne Keke





### What is Advocacy

"Each of us has a story that can move others. If there's an issue you feel passionately about, the story of how you came to care about it could compel others to care as well."

- BILLMOYERS.COM



## Why Advocacy Matters?

Your advocacy can shift perspectives, change votes, and protect opportunities for thousands of future students.

For your families, what are the challenges that keep them from getting more involved as advocates for your school and the broader charter school community?

# We want to help your families become more involved as advocates. Our biggest challenge is identifying who they are.

Here's how you can help: designate parent/guardian email addresses as directory information.

## **Grassroot Advocacy Programs Overview**



## Building Advocacy Through Leadership

Charter Ambassadors

Charter Champions

Legislative Liaisons



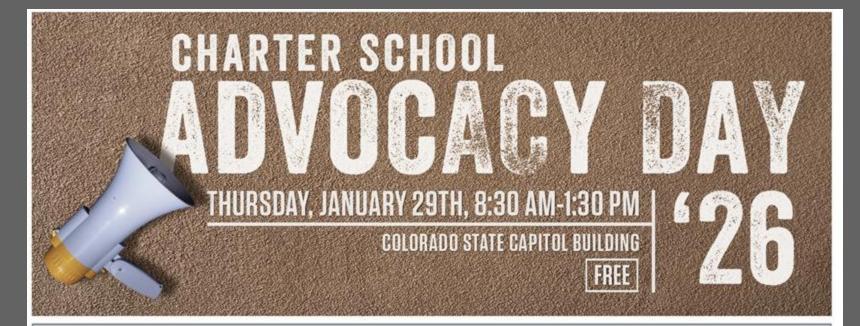
#### **Developing Effective Charter Advocates**

Ambassadors: Cultivate

• Champions: Build

• Liaisons: Provide

## IMPORTANT **DATES**



#### The Colorado Charter Schools **Annual Conference**

February 25-27, 2026 Denver Marriott Tech Center

D A DAVIDSON



"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."

— African proverb





## **ACT Advocacy Network and Newsletter**

Join the ACT Network:



Join Legislative Lunches



#### 

- 1. Join the ACT Network
- 2. Stay informed and support Charter Ambassadors & Champions in your school communities.
- 3. Follow the League and your elected leaders on social media
- 4. Attend our Storytelling Training in December (details to follow)
- 5. Share your charter school story with your elected leaders and on social media
- 6. Invite your elected leaders to a school visit
- 7. Respond to calls to action
- 8. Register for **Advocacy Day**
- 9. Join Legislative Lunches on Fridays during Session
- 10. Register for the 2026 Annual Conference (RFP)

For questions and support, contact Anne — akeke@coloradoleague.org

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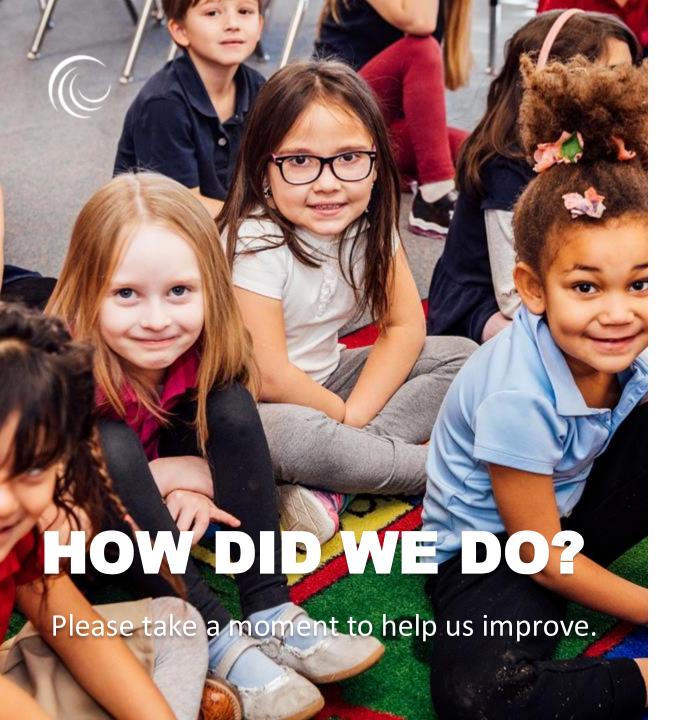
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