



Policy in Motion: Building Advocacy for 2026

October 10th, 2025

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AGENDA

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 anti-charter 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.



An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset. In the foreground, a large, ornate domed building with a golden-brown finish is prominent. Behind it, various skyscrapers and city buildings are visible against a sky with dramatic, dark clouds and a warm orange glow from the setting sun. The city extends to the horizon with rolling hills in the distance.

Previewing the 2026 Legislative Agenda

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](https://slido.com/join/3366370)

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?

A decorative graphic consisting of several concentric, semi-transparent circles is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

**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.**

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several concentric, semi-transparent circles in shades of blue, creating a ripple effect.

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



CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCACY DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

COLORADO STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

FREE

'26

The Colorado Charter Schools Annual Conference

February 25-27, 2026
Denver Marriott Tech Center

TOGETHER

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

2026



ACT Advocacy Network and Newsletter

Join the ACT Network:



Join Legislative Lunches



Top 10 Ways to Get Involved · · · · · ➔

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*

CONTACT US

President

Dan Schaller | dschaller@coloradoleague.org

Chief of Staff / VP School Services

Dawna Taylor | dtaylor@coloradoleague.org

ADVOCACY AND POLICY

Regional Advocacy

Anne Keke | advocacy@clcsaction.org

Legislation and Policy

Prateek Dutta | advocacy@coloradoleague.org

Civic Affairs and CLCS Action

Kyle DeBeer | advocacy@clcsaction.org

MEMBERSHIP and WEBSITE

General Questions

Staff | web@coloradoleague.org

SCHOOL SERVICES

Board Training, School HR, & Enrollment Growth

Bill Knous | boardtraining@coloradoleague.org

Business and Operations Support

Jennifer Larson | business@coloradoleague.org

Academics & Exceptional Education

Karolina Villagrana | academic@coloradoleague.org

GRANTS & OTHER

Great Schools Colorado (CSP)

Tanesha Bell | greatschools@coloradoleague.org

League Operations & Finance

Mark Heffner | accounting@coloradoleague.org

Communications, Events & PR

Pete Mason | communications@coloradoleague.org

ALL STAFF: Online at coloradoleague.org > about > who we are > league staff



HOW DID WE DO?

Please take a moment to help us improve.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/League-training2026



www.coloradoleague.org

charter411@coloradoleague.org