Colorado League of Charter Schools

News

insights for Colorado's charter schools

www.coloradoleague.org

October 23, 2026

🚦 Green Lights, Red Flags + a $100K Bright Spot

Jeffco conditionally approved a new K–8 charter school, while the State Board sent a Pueblo charter application back for reconsideration. Meanwhile, this Denver school may be closing, workforce training opportunities grow, and why rising graduation rates may not be good news.

Plus, meet the 14-year-old **Stargate student whose solution to food insecurity earned him the top prize at the National Civics Bee.

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

Top News



19th October 2026

**Jeffco approves MESA K-8 charter: strings attached

Golden Transcript

A new charter school (Mesa K-8) plans to open in Lakewood's Two Creeks

neighborhood, where the district closed three low-enrollment elementary schools just three years ago.

16th October 2026

**State Board of Education remands Pueblo charter school application to D60

CDE

In its October meeting, the State Board of Education remanded an application for Pueblo School for the Arts and Sciences Classical School to the Pueblo D60 Board of Education for reconsideration.



9th October 2026

**Colorado officials will weigh stricter permanent rules on homeschool.

Chalkbeat

After approving only 14 of 54 applications, state officials are considering permanent rules to strengthen oversight of publicly funded homeschool enrichment programs.



16th October 2026

** Meet Peter Daniell, the Stargate student who won the National Civics Bee

First Post

Civics class usually means memorising the branches of government, reading the Constitution, and taking tests on how laws are made.



19th October 2026

Jewish charter falls short of approval in Oklahoma

Christian Post

A proposed Jewish virtual charter school fell short of the votes it needed for approval from an Oklahoma board, though its organizers plan to appeal.

Local Views

Colorado receives $16 million in two federal grants to strengthen educator workforce and improve student educational outcomes.

CDE | Oct. 22

Before voters approve a $44 million DPS tax hike, tell us what will change

Boardhawk | Oct. 22

Denver school board member John Youngquist discusses what the board should focus on now [podcast]

Boardhawk | Oct. 21

Why is Colorado's public school enrollment shrinking?

RMPBS | Oct. 20

Students can get $2,200 for job training. But Colorado only approved 5 programs to take the grants.

Chalkbeat | Oct. 19

Denver superintendent says he is not recommending any school boundary changes this year

Chalkbeat | Oct. 16

Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy, a tiny HBCU-style high school in Denver, could close after 6 years

Chalkbeat | Oct. 16

***Member schools in the news*

National Views

Supreme Court to decide if religious schools can take public money and still discriminate

Chalkbeat | Oct. 22

Three governors' races, three tests for education reform

Thomas B. Fordham Institute | Oct. 22

Can school choice make special education work?

Thomas B. Fordham Institute | Oct. 22

Oklahoma board plans revote on Jewish charter school

Oklahoma Voice | Oct 21

'Just aren't enough kids': Choice schools feel effects of low birth rates, too

The 74 | Oct. 21

What could a blue wave mean for school choice? [paywall]

Education Week | Oct. 20

Only 1 in 10 students attends a district that has bounced back from the pandemic

The 74 | Oct. 21

Lies, damn lies, and statistics: Why rising graduation rates may not be good news

The 74 | Oct. 19

Did You Know?



Hall of Fame nominations now open

🌟 Celebrate excellence in charter schools: Hall of Fame nominations are now open through mid-December.

Community Announcements

****GOAL High School Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting in Pueblo**

GOAL High School invites the community to join us for the grand opening of our newly renovated Administration Building on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM at 27 Montebello Road in Pueblo. The celebration will begin with a ceremonial flyover at 11:30 a.m., followed by tours of the newly renovated building. Please RSVP to Reegan Howes ra.howes@goalac.org.

October is National Farm to School Month



This annual celebration connects students with local food and agricultural education in schools. Celebrate all month by serving local foods, providing nutrition education, or inviting local farmers to your schools. For questions or help getting started, contact Beverly Leveque at Leveque_b@cde.state.co.us or Justin Carter at carter_j@cde.state.co.us.

Learning Opportunities

Attendance Challenge Webinar (Nov. 2)

Join CDE on Nov. 2 from 9 - 10:30 AM when they'll hear from a panel of school and district leaders across Colorado about how they are using attendance teams to make a difference and reduce chronic absenteeism.

Toddle Presents: Charter Leader Meetup (Nov. 5)

Toddle's Charter Leader Meetup takes place on November 5, from 8 AM–3 PM at Auraria Campus. Focused on *Elevating School Leadership in the Age of AI*, the event will feature keynote speaker Weston Kieschnick and discussions on curriculum, AI and school culture. Bill Knous, the League's Senior Director of Quality & Growth, will join charter school leaders from across Colorado as a featured panelist.

TLCC Data Relaunch Webinar

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

- Nov. 5: Strengthen Culture, Climate and Retention
- Dec. 3: Using TLCC Data in Improvement Planning

2026 Elevating Excellence Conference (Nov. 17-18)

Join CDE on November 17–18 for the free Elevating Excellence Conference. 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.

Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Regional Trainings (multiple dates)

CDE is hosting regional trainings in Gunnison on October 29, La Junta on November 10, and Fort Morgan on November 17. Sessions will support career and academic planning and implementation of college credit, industry credentials, and work-based learning opportunities. Learn more.

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

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.

Boettcher Scholarship Applications Due Nov. 1

Colorado high school seniors planning to attend an eligible Colorado college or university can apply for the Boettcher Scholarship, which offers financial support and leadership development opportunities. Applications are due November 1 at 5 p.m. Schools are encouraged to share this opportunity with seniors and counselors. Review eligibility and apply.

New 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.

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.

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.

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

Public Input Invited on Special Education Rules

The State Board of Education will consider proposed changes to special education rules during its November 12–13 meeting, including responsibilities for facility school placements and related procedures.

Written comments are preferred by November 5; sign-up for testimony runs November 5–11. Review CDE's announcement and participation links.

TLCC Data Relaunch Webinar Series

CDE is offering a 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.

Partner Spotlight

Nunn Construction

We build spaces that improve communities with a commitment to quality, lasting relationships and dedicated service.

Upcoming Events



5 November 2026

Regional Gathering: Fort Collins

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

Regional Gatherings



15 January 2027

Town Hall January 2027

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

Town Hall



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.

Out-of-School Time + Youth Well-Being: A Panel Conversation

In this free virtual panel, out-of-school time leaders, mental health partners and young people will discuss what a healthy afterschool environment looks like in youth's own words. Register now.

School Staff Wellbeing Meetings

The CoP brings together professionals from across Colorado who are passionate about supporting the wellbeing of school staff for the 2026-27 Colorado School Staff Wellbeing Community of Practice (CoP).

More Health & Wellness

Careers

5-8 Counselor - Student Support Services/Guidance Counselor

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $52,378 - 75,848 per year

Closing date: Jun 17, 2026 02:20 PM

New Vision Charter School, Loveland, CO

Assistant Principal - Elementary

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $65,000 - 85,000 per year

Closing date: Jun 21, 2026 04:32 PM

Legacy Academy, Legacy Academy

Business Manager

Contract type: Full-Time

Salary: $65,000 - 75,000 per year

Closing date: Jun 30, 2026 12:00 AM

Compass for Lifelong Discovery, Compass for Lifelong Discovery

View all jobs

Recent League Newsletters

Stay connected with the latest charter school news, events, policy updates, and resources by logging in to subscribe to the League's newsletters.



- **NEWS (October 16, 2026)**
- **MOVE (October 9, 2026)**
- **POLICY & ADVOCACY MATTERS (October 13, 2026)**
- **CONNECT COHORT (October 15, 2026)**
- **GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (September 17, 2026)**
- **Follow Charter Sense on LinkedIn**

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