

October 2, 2026

New data & new directions

Student Count Day takes center stage this week as Colorado schools' enrollment numbers help determine funding for the year ahead. Across the education landscape, new data is prompting conversations about grade inflation, homeschooling trends, and changing student populations.

In Colorado, voters prepare to weigh in on State Board of Education races in November.

We hope to see you at our 2026 Leadership Summit today! Join us for keynote speaker Dr. Perea plus two blocks of workshops and more. Can't make it? Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn for updates!

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

Top News



1st October 2026

Student Count Day is here. What that means for school districts across Colorado

CPR

Thursday, Oct. 1, marks Colorado's Student October Count Day, a date that determines school funding for the rest of the year.



29th September 2026

Parents are beginning to grasp the reality of grade inflation, new data shows

The 74

For years, researchers and education pundits have tried to tell parents that their children are not performing as well as they might think in school.



29th September 2026

Are religious charter schools constitutional?

The Conversation

Just over a year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court rendered an unusual judgment: a tied vote.

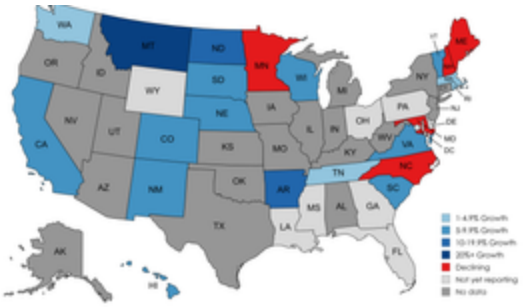


28th September 2026

Trump, bucking Congress yet again, cancels $100 million for education

EdWeek

The Trump administration is using a mechanism widely viewed as illegal to cancel nearly $100 million Congress appropriated for expanding college-level foreign-language instruction and helping transient U.S. agricultural workers get GEDs and go to college.



30th September 2026

The homeschooling boom may be losing steam

Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy

New data for the 2025-2026 school year show that homeschooling participation continued to grow across the country, but the pace of that growth has slowed.

Local Views

DPS school board member DJ Torres resigns

9News | October 1



After months of infighting between members of the Denver Public Schools board of education, Director Donald "DJ" Torres has resigned.

Podcast season 2 episode 25: DJ Torres resigns from the DPS board. Now what?

Boardhawk | October 1

Boardhawk invited Parker Baxter, Scholar in Residence and Director of the Center for Education Policy Analysis at the School of Pubic to discuss DPS Board Director DJ Torres's resignation.

Voter guide 2026: How Colorado State Board of Education candidates answered 9 questions

Chalkbeat | September 30

Three seats on Colorado's nine-member State Board of Education are up for election on Nov. 3.

The highly suspect timing of allegations against DPS board member Monica Hunter, and moving forward from here

Boardhawk | September 25

Alleged antisemitic statements by Denver school board member Monica Hunter aimed at her colleague Amy Klein Molk are problematic.

***Member Schools*

National Views



Former Gov. Glenn Youngkin on taking the school choice fight national

The 74 | September 30

The unofficial title of "education governor" used to be a fairly coveted one in U.S. politics, describing a state leader distinguished for his commitment to schools and willingness to spearhead bold reforms.

Public schools see 'money on the table' in education tax credit designed for private school choice

Chalkbeat | September 30

Tutoring. SAT prep. Summer camp. Field trips.

Public educators are skeptical of the new Federal tax credits. They needn't be



EdWeek | September 29

Beginning in January, a new federal scholarship tax credit is projected to generate billions of dollars to expand educational opportunities for students across the country.

Title IX changes by Trump administration could tee up broader goal: defining sex in federal law

Chalkbeat | September 29

The U.S. Department of Education cast changes to Title IX rules announced Monday as a "commonsense" step to protect women and girls by reinstating regulations from the first Trump administration.

As Missouri's student population shrinks, schools face a new demographic reality



The 74 | September 28

St. Louis Public Schools was one of America's largest school systems in the late-1960s, educating 115,000 students at its peak.

Inside Alpha School's 'Bootcamp': Heart monitors, unpaid labor & many, many tweets

The 74 | September 25

This fall, as students at the private, AI-focused Alpha School begin their academic year, many are being tested in an unusual way: they're watching a video of their parents "talking about our worst qualities," according to one student, while hooked up to a heart monitor.

I also sent my children to a nonselective, overwhelmingly minority public school, but it wasn't a sacrifice



Fordham Institute | September 25

When Nikole Hannah-Jones writes that her daughter finally told her, "Sometimes I wish instead of always thinking about other kids, you would have thought about me," every parent who works in education should stop and sit with those words.

Did You Know?



Join Us for the October Town Hall

Our October Town Hall is coming up! Join fellow charter school leaders and League staff for a timely conversation about issues, updates, and opportunities impacting Colorado's charter school community.

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.

***New Vision Charter School Selling Textbooks**

New Vision Charter School has CPM Core Connections Course 1 and Course 3 books for sale. Contact Marian Hejl, Executive Director, at mhejl@newvisioncharterschool.org or 970-541-9416.

***Charter Network Releases RFP for BEST Grant Services**

Ascent Classical Academy Charter Schools, Inc. has released an RFP for BEST Grant Services. Learn more on their website.

***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.

**League Member School*

Learning Opportunities

Education Communications Summit in Dallas (Oct. 6)

Join the K-12 Marketing & Communications Excellence Summit in Dallas on October 6. This event will bring together K-12 marketing, communications, and enrollment leaders from across the country for a full day of learning and connection. League members receive a 20% discount on registration by using code K12CONGRP at checkout. Check out the speakers, explore the sessions, and register here.

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.

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 next month! 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, or register via Zoom for an application support webinar at 10 a.m. Oct. 8.

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 October 8, 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

Inspiroz

Secure, reliable IT for charter & independent schools. Designed for instructional continuity, student data protection, and predictable operations.

Upcoming Events



2 October 2026

Leadership Summit 2026

Join charter school leaders, advocates, and partners from across Colorado for a day focused on the future of education, leadership, advocacy, and innovation.

Major events, 1672 Lawrence St, Denver, CO 80202



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

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.

- ADVOCACY NEWSLETTERS (August 20, 2026)
- NEWS (September 25, 2026) (weekly)
- MOVE (September 11, 2026) (monthly)
- LEGISLATIVE MATTERS (May 13, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (May 28, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (September 17, 2026)
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