Colorado League of Charter Schools

News
insights for Colorado's charter schools
www.coloradoleague.org

September 4, 2026

Performance, choice and school communities in focus

As the school year gets underway, new preliminary SPF ratings and student outcomes are drawing attention. From fewer schools on the low-performance watchlist and gaps in equity and outcomes to a statewide student walkout and changes to Denver's school closure policy, this week's stories highlight the issues shaping schools and communities across the state.

Thanks to everyone who attended last week's Annual Finance Seminar. See below for a recap, or see the recordings and assets here.

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

Top News



2nd September 2026

Equity gaps widen, autonomy and choice show stronger outcomes

Boardhawk

The release of 2025-2026 state testing

data has given us the latest glimpse into the question that should be at the forefront of every conversation: How are students doing?



2nd September 2026

Students at over 100 Colorado schools plan statewide ICE protest

Westword

Over 100 middle schools and high schools are expected to experience walkouts on Sept. 4.



31st August 2026

Fewer Colorado schools are on the state's watchlist for low performance

Chalkbeat

Fewer schools are on Colorado's watchlist for low performance this year, according to preliminary data from CDE.



31st August 2026

Four Denver schools are safe from closure under a new district policy

Chalkbeat

DPS [will not close any schools this year](#) under a new policy of shuttering persistently low-performing campuses.



29th August 2026

** John Adams Academy celebrates first week of class

Denver7

On Friday, John Adams Academy, a charter school in Sterling Ranch, [wrapped up the first week of its first-ever school year.](#) .

Local Views

Marrero's strategic roadmap is neither strategic nor a roadmap

Boardhawk | Sept. 1

Last week, Denver Public Schools Superintendent Alex Marrero presented to the school board a slide deck labeled Denver Thrives 2030: [A Strategic Roadmap](#) refresh.

**** North Routt charter school lunch service delayed as Steamboat district faces staffing shortage**



Pilot&Today | Sept. 1

District officials pull out of partnership after previous announcement of NRCCS participation in [National School Lunch Program](#).

**** JHL celebrates completion of Thornton charter school expansion**

Mile High | August 31

On August 29, JHL Constructors joined Stargate School and HCM and community

officials to celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the Stargate Primary and Secondary Expansion in Thornton.



Denver schools just banned cellphones. Here's how parents — and kids — are taking it

Denverite | August 31

Denver Public Schools instituted a sweeping new rule about students' devices. It comes with excitement and concern.

Colorado Charter Schools in the News

National Views

Don't just defend or destroy the National Center for Education Statistics. Rebuild it.

Fordham Institute | Sept. 3

In early 2025, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) was largely dismantled.



Chronic absenteeism plagues our schools and society

The Hill | Sept. 1

A disturbing proportion of school-age students are frequently skipping school.

Parents demanding tech opt-outs take their fight to Federal court

The 74 | August 31

Pennsylvania families say their district's new policy violates their civil rights, but experts don't expect similar lawsuits.

Did You Know?



Build Your Charter Leadership Foundation

Ready to strengthen your leadership skills? Foundations of Charter School Leadership & Administration provides

practical training to help current and aspiring charter leaders build the knowledge and skills they need to lead effectively.

Community Announcements



Annual Finance Seminar Resources Now Available

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a great 2026 Annual Finance Seminar! All available session recordings, slide decks, handouts, and additional resources are now online, making it easy to revisit a session or catch up on content you may have missed.

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.

Honor Charter School Celebrates Groundbreaking

Honor Charter School will celebrate the construction kickoff of Marzano Academies' newest K–8 charter school with a groundbreaking ceremony on September 29 at 3:00 PM in Peyton. Community members are invited to join the celebration and mark the beginning of the school's new campus.

Colorado Student Attendance Continues to Improve

New statewide data from the Colorado Department of Education shows chronic absenteeism declined across every grade level and nearly every student group, reaching its lowest statewide rate in four years. Despite the progress, more than 27% of Colorado students remain chronically absent.

Learning Opportunities

Save the Date: 2026 Elevating Excellence Conference (Nov. 17-18)
Join CDE on November 17–18, 2026, for the free Elevating Excellence Conference: Excellence by Design: Innovate, Elevate, Impact. 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.

Paid: Join nXu's Colorado Educator Advisory Council by October 2
nXu is recruiting Colorado educators for the second cohort of its Educator Advisory Council for 2026-27. Council members deliver nXu lessons with their own students and give feedback that shapes future versions of the curriculum. Open to all grade levels and subject areas. Features five virtual sessions across the year and a $2,000 stipend. Applications close Friday, October 2.

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

Safe2Tell Student Ambassadors
Safe2Tell is accepting Student Ambassador applications for students in grades 10–12. Selected ambassadors help promote the program through creative projects in their schools and communities.

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.

Upcoming State Board Rulemaking Hearings

The State Board of Education is preparing for several rulemaking hearings this fall, including rules related to part-time programs for homeschool students, school finance, and the Exceptional Children's Educational Act. Hearings are expected during the Board's October and November meetings.

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.

Proposed Updates to READ Act

Proposed revisions to the READ Act rules would align requirements with Senate Bill 25-200, including universal dyslexia screening for students in kindergarten through third grade. The updates also address READ plans and parent involvement, minimum reading competency levels, and the review process for approved reading assessments.

Reminder for New Board Members

New charter school board members are required to take, sign, and file an oath of office within 80 days of joining a board, pursuant to Colorado statute. Schools should work directly with their county clerk's office for submission instructions and can contact CDE with questions regarding the requirement.

Partner Spotlight

Tatonka Education Services

TES is a strategic partner with charter schools that is disrupting traditional charter service models by providing custom services to develop strong, thriving schools.

Upcoming Events



24 September 2026

Regional Gathering: Colorado Springs

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

Regional Gatherings, 2 E Pikes Peak Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903



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

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 NETWORK (August 20, 2026)
- NEWS (August 28, 2026) (weekly)
- MOVE (August 14, 2026) (monthly)
- LEGISLATIVE MATTERS (May 13, 2026)
- CONNECT COHORT (May 28, 2026)
- GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (May 21, 2026)
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