Colorado League of Charter Schools

News

insights for Colorado's charter schools

www.coloradoleague.org

October 16, 2026

📚 Shifting enrollment + decisions ahead

Declining enrollment is prompting difficult conversations across Colorado about school closures and their impact on communities. This week's news also covers proposed homeschool enrichment rules, federal guidance affecting special education, and the education issues on November's ballot — decisions that affect students, families, and school leaders.

Join us today at 10 a.m. for our October Virtual Town Hall to discuss the upcoming election and what's ahead for the 2027 Legislative Session, as well as the latest federal tax credit updates — and what they mean for your school.

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

Top News



15th October 2026

What is lost and what is gained when schools are shut down

CPR

As more Front Range districts consider

school closures, families and educators reflect on what Jeffco's earlier consolidations meant for students, school communities, and resources.



14th October 2026

Facing an enrollment drop, Denver superintendent says school closures could be coming

Chalkbeat

Denver Public Schools lost nearly 1,800 students this fall, a larger decline than expected that could prompt additional school closures despite the district's four-year moratorium.



14th October 2026

How new Federal guidance on disability could impact K-12 special education

EdWeek

A special education researcher discusses concerns about federal disability guidance and explains why schools' responsibilities for helping students prepare for adulthood remain in place.



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.



1st October 2026

**Mountain View Core Knowledge School ranks No. 20 among Colorado middle schools

Daily Record

During the past 30 years, Mountain View Core Knowledge School has become synonymous with top-notch education — a quality that has repeatedly been recognized both locally and statewide.

Local Views

Colorado charter school student Peter Daniell wins 2026 National Civics Bee



CSPAN | October 15

Peter Daniell, from Broomfield, Colorado, wins first place at the 2026 National Civics Bee. Daniell is a student at Stargate School.

Local foods expand school menus at Battle Rock Charter School

The Journal | October 8

With a $5,000 Local Food Program award, Battle Rock Charter School is bringing locally sourced ingredients and scratch-made meals to students at Battle Rock and Kwiyagat Community Academy while strengthening connections with local farmers and producers.

Adams 12 to close six schools at the end of the academic year

CPR | October 8

The Adams 12 school board voted to close six schools following years of declining enrollment, joining other Colorado districts making difficult consolidation decisions.



One year and a free speech case later, this Colorado Springs teacher is headed back to the classroom

Chalkbeat | October 8

A District 11 teacher removed over social media posts about a strike will be retained following a yearlong dispute that raised questions about employee speech and workplace disruption.

*Member Schools

National Views

Teacher pay and a controversial curriculum: Inside district's 10th state takeover

The 74 | October 13 | Interview

A South San Antonio school board leader discusses difficult decisions about staffing, curriculum, and preparing the district for state-appointed leadership.

Which education issues are on the ballot? Look up your state in our guide

EdWeek | October 13

A state-by-state election guide examines races and ballot measures that could shape school funding, education policy, and school governance.

'Sold a Story' Season 2: Teachers and schools matter. We should act like it.

The 74 | October 15 | Opinion



Conor Williams considers the next season of Emily Hanford's education podcast and its examination of why schools overlook effective teaching practices.

Teachers' expectations for students matter. Here's a key element many miss

EdWeek | October 12

New research suggests that high expectations work best when teachers pair encouragement with specific feedback that helps students understand how to improve.

Margaret Spellings and Arne Duncan: The ed. agenda we can agree on

EdWeek | October 12 | Opinion

Two former U.S. education secretaries call for a shared focus on student achievement, stronger research, clear expectations, and transparency about school performance.

What a mom of six wants schools to understand about attendance



The 74 | October 8 | Opinion

A charter school parent shares the challenges behind getting children to school on time and urges school leaders to work with families to address attendance barriers.

Did You Know?



There's More to Explore on Our Website

Missed a newsletter or want to revisit a story? Our News pagebrings together top education headlines, featured MOVE articles, League policy updates, and stories from Colorado's charter school community—all in one place.

Community Announcements

Learning Opportunities

UIP Planning & Impact Workshops (Oct. 22–23)

CDE's upcoming workshops will focus on aligning strategic initiatives, strengthening improvement plans, and monitoring progress. Options include an October 22 hybrid session and an October 23 virtual session with a rural focus. View details and register.

Clean School Bus Funding Webinar (Oct. 22)



Join the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools and Highland Electric Fleets on October 22 from noon–1 p.m. MT to explore federal funding opportunities for cleaner school buses. Hear from charter schools with firsthand experience and learn about options for schools that own their buses or contract transportation services. Register for the webinar.

Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Regional Trainings

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.

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



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.

Colorado Free Application Days Return Oct. 20-22

The Colorado Department of Higher Education's Free Application Days are coming up October 20-22! Visit the website for a communications toolkit to use in your community.

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.

Financing for Community Projects Through Colorado Trust

The Colorado Trust offers program-related investments, including low-interest loans, to support community infrastructure, affordable housing, and other projects that advance health equity. Schools exploring kitchen expansions or other community-serving projects can contact Mia Ramirez to discuss potential fit. Learn more about the program.

Nourish Colorado Grants Support Local School Meals

Nourish Colorado is offering grants to K–12 School Food Authorities for equipment, staff training, and food education that support locally sourced school meals. Access the grant form to apply, register for an informational webinar, or submit questions.

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

EF Tours

For over 55 years, EF Tours has been working to bring learning to life through educational travel.

Upcoming Events



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



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 2, 2026)**
- **MOVE (October 9, 2026)**
- **POLICY & ADVOCACY MATTERS (October 13, 2026)**
- **CONNECT COHORT (October 15, 2026)**
- **GREAT SCHOOLS COLORADO (September 17, 2026)**
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