

August 28, 2026

School choice and enrollment take center stage

As the new school year gets underway, questions around school choice, enrollment and shifting perspectives are drawing attention. From uncertainty surrounding homeschool enrichment programs and a recently advanced charter resolution in Douglas County to shifting public perceptions of school choice, this week's stories highlight changes that could shape how schools serve students and families.

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

Top News



26th August 2026

Open or closed? Some CO homeschool programs remain in limbo

Chalkbeat

As the school year begins, leaders at Denver’s Bluff Lake Nature Center are searching for a way to keep offering publicly funded enrichment classes...

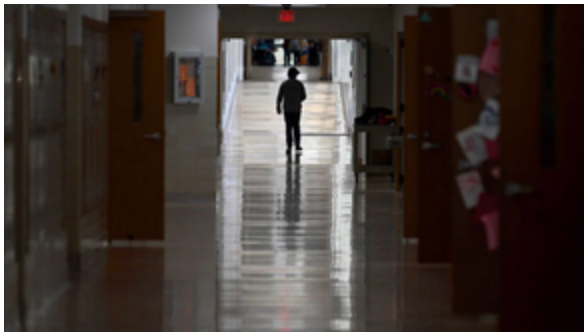


24th August 2026

DougCo’s charter proposal protects schools from competition, not choice

RMV

Douglas County has long been known as a community that values school choice, which is one reason a resolution recently advanced by the Douglas County School District (DCSD) Board of Education deserves much more attention than it has received.



26th August 2026

Fewer teachers, fewer students: what's happening in 9,500 districts

The 74

Earlier this month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that public education lost 50,000 jobs between June and July.



24th August 2026

School choice is expanding. Public support?

The 74

With new state-level programs quickly redrawing the map of school choice over the last few years, a central question may determine the movement's continued success.



24th August 2026

The truth about Colorado's national Ed ranking [podcast]

Boardhawk

Last week, with the release of the 2026 state testing CMAS results, we published longtime educator and education advocate van Schoales' examination of the USNWR report.

Local Views

Judge dismisses conservative-leaning Colorado school districts' lawsuit over transgender athlete policies

Chalkbeat | August 27

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by several Colorado school districts and charter schools over policies related to transgender student athletes.

Four charters listed as among Colorado's healthiest schools

Alliance for a Healthier Generation | August 25

An annual list of America's Healthiest Schools included four charters from Colorado: Banning Lewis Academy, Downtown Denver Expeditionary School, Knowledge Quest Academy, and Swallows Charter Academy.

Building something bigger than yourself



CharterFolk | August 24

Two years after stepping down as CEO of the network he helped build from the ground floor, Bill Kurtz keeps coming back to the same sentence when he talks about the Denver School of Science and Technology, now DSST Public Schools.

Guffey Community Charter School ready for new school year

The Flume | August 24

Guffey Community Charter School is off to a great start for the new school year. The school is transitioning smoothly from outgoing administrator Kelli Burke to administrator Laura Batts. Batts has accomplished a lot in her first 12 days at the school getting ready for opening week.

Fort Collins charter school expands junior high facility as Poudre School District sees enrollment drop



Denver 7 | August 21

As Poudre School District grapples with declining enrollment, one Fort Collins charter school is expanding its campus and creating room for more students.

Colorado schools reopen with measles vaccination rates below protective threshold

Denver Gazette | August 21

Colorado is entering the new school year without active measles transmission, but health officials remain concerned as kindergarten MMR coverage sits at just 87.8% and most counties fall below the 95% threshold considered protective against outbreaks.

Colorado Charter Schools in the News

National Views



The loophole quietly undoing America's third-grade reading laws

Fordham Institute | August 27

More than a dozen states now require that third graders who can't read at grade level repeat the grade rather than advance to fourth, where every subject assumes literacy.

The $500 million student

CharterFolk | August 26

For decades, the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts had per-pupil funding levels thousands of dollars higher than charter schools because the districts refused to share local funds with charter schools.



Can lighter-touch tutoring programs benefit kids too?

EdWeek | August 26

Intensive tutoring is supposed to be one of the most effective routes to raise student achievement. But it doesn't always work out that way.

Even with human help, kids need motimotivation to use AI tutors. The question is what

The 74 | August 26

Artificial intelligence-based tutoring programs promise something schools have long struggled to provide: personalized instruction for every student at a fraction of the cost of traditional 1-on-1 tutoring.

In South Dakota, a school's design enhances learning for younger kids

The 74 | August 25

Superintendent's view: When our elementary school adopted "Opportunity by Design," we saw better academic results.



Private schools have benefited from vouchers. Now public schools aim to cash in

Hechinger Report | August 24

Starting next year, taxpayers can earmark up to $1,700 to not only help families pay private schools, but also to support some services at public schools.

Did You Know?



Connect with Charter Leaders in Your Area Starting Sept 3

Build connections close to home at a League Regional Gathering! These informal happy hours bring charter school leaders together to network, share ideas, and connect with League staff. Beginning in Douglas County on Sept. 3 and continuing in Colorado Springs on Sept. 24, check out all the details on our calendar.

Community Announcements

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.

GOAL High School Brings Community Together for "Cuts and Kicks"
GOAL High School's South Springs location welcomed students and families for its "Cuts and Kicks" Open House, connecting them with local businesses while providing free haircuts, food, giveaways, and other back-to-school support. Read the full press release here.

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.

Ascent Classical Academy Seeks Marketing Partner
Ascent Classical Academy Charter Schools is seeking a marketing and communications consultant or firm to develop an integrated strategy supporting enrollment, fundraising, and network growth. Qualified consultants, fractional CMOs, and agencies are invited to submit proposals by August 31 at 5:00 PM MT.

Charter School Buses Available for Purchase
A charter school in Northern Colorado has a 54-passenger bus and two 15-passenger activity buses available for sale. Schools interested in purchasing any of the buses are encouraged to direct inquiries to Jemiah Fowler.

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.

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

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.

Share your Input on School Cell Phone Policies

Educators are invited to participate in Phones in Focus, a brief national survey examining how cell phone policies are working in schools. The confidential survey takes about five minutes to complete, and schools with at least five teacher responses will receive a summary report, with participants also entered to win a $500 gift card.

CDE Schools of Choice Updates

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

Sparks Willson

Sparks Willson is a business law firm. For over forty years we have served as outside general counsel for prominent local and national businesses.

Upcoming Events



3 September 2026

Regional Gathering: Douglas County

Join your Douglas County Charter School leaders for a League Hosted Happy Hour.

Regional Gatherings, 9977 Sky Ridge Ave. #240 Lone Tree, CO 80124



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

View more

Health & Wellness

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).

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.

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 21, 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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