

2007-2008 Quick Facts



Douglas County
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

The Douglas County School District has a tradition of educational excellence that strives to put children first. Its vision is "to create responsible citizens who contribute to our society."

Location

Douglas County is located between Denver and Colorado Springs and covers nearly 900 square miles.

Schools

44 elementary schools
2 magnet schools
7 middle schools
8 high schools
7 charter schools
1 alternative high school
1 night high school
1 university center
33 AM preschool sites
33 PM preschool sites

Calendars

All secondary schools operate on a traditional or conventional calendar. Instead of a two-month summer break, students on a year-round calendar attend school for nine weeks, followed by a three-week break.

- 25 elementary schools are on year-round, track schedules
- 6 elementary schools are on modified schedules
- 15 elementary schools are on conventional schedules

Classroom Teachers

Experience

Average years of experience: 7.7
Average years with Douglas County: 3
Percentage with bachelor's degrees: 34
Percentage with master's degrees: 64
Percentage with doctorates: 1

Salaries

Average new hire salary: \$41,402
Average teacher salary: \$51,353

Staff

Certified staff: 3,341
Classified staff: 2,575
Administrators: 216
Professional: 70
Technical: 23

Volunteers

- Each school has a part-time volunteer coordinator.
- Over 16,000 parents and community members volunteer each year.
- Volunteers contribute thousands of hours each month in classrooms, libraries and school offices.

Students

Student enrollment

- 50,912 (July 2007, unofficial count)

Class sizes

The District strives to maintain average class sizes of 25 students per classroom teacher. We staff our schools according to the following ratios:

- Grades K-3: 23
- Grades 4-6: 26
- Grades 7-8: 19.5
- Grades 9-12: 20.5

Funding

Per-pupil funding revenue (based on state formula): \$6,413
Per-pupil operating revenue: \$6,121

Keeping pace with growth

Douglas County is now the third largest school district in Colorado. Despite a rapidly growing student population, Douglas County has always been able to integrate new students in a positive, innovative setting, with a focus on high student achievement in core subjects and continuous improvement based on measurable results. The District prides itself on a well-qualified and caring staff, a well-researched and integrated curriculum, a rich array of extracurricular activities and strong community involvement.

Academic achievement

Students in Douglas County School District (DCSD) continue to outpace the state average on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Results show Douglas County continues to exceed state averages in every subject tested. When comparing the percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency, DCSD students exceed the state average by 10-19 percentage points.

More choices for families

Douglas County parents have more choices for their children in neighborhood schools and alternative offerings. Seven charter schools are available, as are the Lone Tree Elementary Magnet, Renaissance Expeditionary Learning/Outward Bound Magnet School and the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning. Families also have the option to open enroll their students in any Douglas County school if there is space available.

Board of Education

The Board of Education is responsible for setting the over-arching Vision for the District. The Board-approved Vision for the Future lays the foundation for what the District is expected to accomplish. The Board's Vision states: Graduates from Douglas County School District are responsible citizens who contribute to our society. For more information on Board meeting agendas and schedules, call 303.387.0258 or visit www.dcsdk12.org.

State Board grants waivers

In November 2006, the State Board of Education voted to grant Douglas County School District waivers from current state teacher licensure and endorsement procedures. Despite the strong interest for teachers to work in Douglas County, there are positions, such as special education, bilingual and high level math and science teachers, that are more difficult to fill. The District, acting as an arm of the Colorado Department of Education, will set up a system to pre-qualify candidates and provide the additional training and endorsements needed to fill these spots and meet student needs.

World Language initiative

With the passing of the 2006 \$5 million budget override, the District is looking to expand world language offerings at all grade levels, but most significantly at the elementary level. Douglas County School District wants to ensure that every student that goes through the system will have the basic ability to speak another language.

Technology in the classroom

Douglas County's classrooms integrate tried and true educational approaches, including a wise use of technology that provides students with a foundation of skills for lifelong learning. Professional development opportunities and an investment in current hardware and software combine to provide teachers with the latest advances in technology to enhance student learning.

For more information, call the Communications Office at 303.387.0033, or visit the District's web site at www.dcsdk12.org.