



Proud To Be
DCSD

A Parent's Guide to Douglas County School District

2019-2020

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ABOUT DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Douglas County is many things to many people. Here, you will find beautiful natural surroundings, a thriving and diverse community, and a variety of towns and cities ranging from large suburban to close-knit rural. Douglas County literally offers the best of all worlds. That's why over 335,000 people choose to call Douglas County home. Woven throughout this great community is Douglas County School District Re.1 which has provided students with a high-quality public education since 1958.

Our Mission

The mission of the Douglas County School District (DCSD) is to provide an educational foundation that allows each student to reach his or her individual potential.

Our Vision

The Douglas County School District strives to maximize the potential of every student to pursue his or her chosen endeavor in society, including but not limited to postsecondary education, career, or military service.

Our Core Values

- Educational Excellence
- Human Diversity
- Individual Potential
- Lifelong Learning
- Productive Effort
- Shared Responsibility
- Ethical Behavior
- Continuous Improvement

Our Students

- DCSD serves more than 68,000 students across 850 square miles.
- DCSD has one of the highest graduation rates in the Denver metro area at 90.8%.
- The DCSD Class of 2019 earned scholarships totaling nearly \$96 million.
- DCSD students leave school prepared for the future they choose, whether that be a four-year college, the military or direct entrance into the workforce.

Our Schools

- DCSD has 91 public schools, including traditional public schools, magnet public schools, alternative education campuses, charter public schools as well as online and home school options.
- DCSD schools offer a variety of pedagogies including STEM, Artful Learning, Expeditionary Learning, Project-Based Learning, Core Knowledge, and International Baccalaureate.
- DCSD offers concurrent enrollment opportunities to students, where they can earn college credit in high school (last year this saved local families more than \$2 million in tuition).
- DCSD is the third largest school district in Colorado.

Our Staff

- DCSD is the largest employer in the county with 8,300 employees.
 - 4,500 are licensed employees.

Douglas County School District Nondiscrimination Notice

The Douglas County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, genetic information, or physical characteristics, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment of, or employment in educational programs or activities. The School District's Compliance Officer is Ted Knight, Assistant Superintendent, 620 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, Colorado, complianceofficer@dcsdk12.org, 303-387-0067. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public.





DCSD

BY THE NUMBERS

91	SCHOOLS
48	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
9	MIDDLE SCHOOLS
9	HIGH SCHOOLS
5	ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS
20	CHARTER SCHOOLS
plus 42	PRESCHOOL LOCATIONS

90.8%
GRADUATE

DCSD is the
largest employer
in Douglas County
8,300 EMPLOYEES
4,500+ are licensed educators

EXCELLENCE GRADUATION RATE

DCSD has one of the
highest graduation rates
in the Denver metro area.
Rates have risen steadily from
83.1% in 2010 to 90.8% in 2019.

2019: **nearly**
\$96,000,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DCSD STUDENTS

The class of 2019 earned nearly
\$96,000,000 in scholarships.

68,000
STUDENTS



3rd largest
school district in the state

INNOVATION CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Students and parents saved nearly \$2.3 million
(2018-2019) in college expenses through
DCSD's concurrent enrollment
partnerships.

2018-2019: **NEARLY**
\$2,300,000 SAVED



2019-2020 BUDGETED REVENUE
\$800,000,000+

Our Superintendent



Thomas S. Tucker, Ph.D. has been in the world of public education for 30 years. Dr. Tucker came to Douglas County School District in 2018 from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served as Superintendent of Princeton City Schools. Over his career Dr. Tucker has held the positions of classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of secondary curriculum and superintendent. He has been twice named National Superintendent of the Year (American Association of School Administrators in 2016, and National Alliance of Black School Educators in 2013). Dr. Tucker was born and raised in Arkansas and was the youngest of 11 children. He is married and is a father of four.

Superintendent's Cabinet

The Superintendent has a team of advisors whom he relies upon to discuss and determine action on critical issues facing the district. Every area of the district is represented in Cabinet.



Richard D. Cosgrove, PE
Chief Operations Officer
richard.cosgrove@dcsdk12.org



Matt Reynolds
Chief Assessment and Data Officer
matt.reynolds@dcsdk12.org



Nancy Ingalls
Personalized Learning Officer
nancy.ingalls@dcsdk12.org



Gautam Sethi
Chief Technology Officer
gautam.sethi@dcsdk12.org



Mary Kay Klimesh
General Counsel
mary.klimesh@dcsdk12.org



Scott Smith
Chief Financial Officer
scott.smith@dcsdk12.org



Ted Knight
Assistant Superintendent
ted.knight@dcsdk12.org



Amanda Thompson
Chief Human Resources Officer
amanda.thompson@dcsdk12.org



Stacy Rader
Communications Officer
stacy.rader@dcsdk12.org



Marlena Gross Taylor
Chief Academic Officer
marlena.grosstaylor@dcsdk12.org

Our Board of Education is elected by the community and is committed to a policy governance model.

The seven members of the Board of Education are elected to staggered, four-year terms at regular biennial school elections.

Each board member represents one of seven regional districts and is elected at-large.

Our Board of Education solicits and considers feedback from a variety of stakeholders via community surveys and town hall meetings.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education Members



District A - Wendy Vogel

Wendy.Vogel@dcsdk12.org | Term expires November 2019

- Bear Canyon Elementary
- Ben Franklin Academy
- Coyote Creek Elementary
- Eldorado Elementary
- Northridge Elementary
- Plum Creek Academy
- Ranch View Middle School
- Saddle Ranch Elementary
- Sand Creek Elementary
- STEM School Highlands Ranch
- Summit View Elementary
- ThunderRidge High School
- Trailblazer Elementary



District B – Anthony Graziano

Anthony.Graziano@dcsdk12.org | Term expires November 2021

- Academy Charter School
- Ascent Classical Academy (Castle Rock)
- Aspen View Academy
- Castle Rock Middle School
- Castle View High School
- Clear Sky Elementary
- Larkspur Elementary
- Meadow View Elementary
- Roxborough Intermediate
- Roxborough Primary
- Sedalia Elementary
- Soaring Hawk Elementary



District C – Anne Marie Lemieux

Amlemieux@dcsdk12.org | Term expires November 2019

- Arrowwood Elementary
- Copper Mesa Elementary
- Cougar Run Elementary
- Cresthill Middle School
- Fox Creek Elementary
- Heritage Elementary
- Highlands Ranch High School
- Mountain Ridge Middle School
- Mountain Vista High School
- Platte River Academy
- Redstone Elementary
- Rock Canyon High School
- Rocky Heights Middle School
- SkyView Academy
- Stone Mountain Elementary

**District D – Christina Ciancio-Schor***CCiancio.Schor@dcsdk12.org* | Term expires November 2021

- Castle Rock Elementary
- Cherry Valley Elementary
- Daniel C. Oakes High School
- Douglas County High School
- Early Childhood Center - South
- eDCSD
- Flagstone Elementary
- Franktown Elementary
- Mesa Middle School
- Renaissance Magnet School
- Renaissance Secondary School
- Rock Ridge Elementary
- Sage Canyon Elementary
- South Ridge Elementary
- World Compass Academy

**District E – Kevin Leung***Kevin.Leung@dcsdk12.org* | Term expires November 2021

- Acres Green Elementary
- American Academy (Castle Pines)
- Ascent Classical Academy (Lone Tree)
- Buffalo Ridge Elementary
- DCS Montessori
- Eagle Academy
- Eagle Ridge Elementary
- Early Childhood Center - North
- Lone Tree Elementary
- Timber Trail Elementary
- Wildcat Elementary

**District F – David Ray***David.Ray@dcsdk12.org* | Term expires in November 2019

- Cimarron Middle School
- Frontier Valley Elementary
- Gold Rush Elementary
- Iron Horse Elementary
- Legacy Point Elementary
- Legend High School
- Leman Classical Academy
- Mountain View Elementary
- Northeast Elementary
- Pioneer Elementary
- Ponderosa High School
- Sagewood Middle School

**District G – Krista Holtzmann***Krista.Holtzmann@dcsdk12.org* | Term expires in November 2021

- American Academy (Lincoln Meadows)
- American Academy (Motsenbocker)
- Challenge to Excellence
- Chaparral High School
- Cherokee Trail Elementary
- DC Student Support Center
- Global Village Academy
- Mammoth Heights Elementary
- North Star Academy
- Parker Core Knowledge
- Parker Performing Arts
- Pine Grove Elementary
- Pine Lane Elementary
- Prairie Crossing Elementary
- Sierra Middle School

Board Goals

In 2018, the Douglas County School District Board of Education unanimously approved the following five goals (sometimes referred to as “end statements”).

- Academic Excellence
- Outstanding Educators and Staff
- Safe, Positive Climate and Culture
- Collaborative Parent, Family, and Community Relations
- Financial Well-Being

Board of Education Meetings

Regular meetings of the Douglas County School District Board of Education are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and take place at the Douglas County School District Administration building located at 620 Wilcox Street in Castle Rock. Board meetings are open to the public, and can also be watched live on the DCSD YouTube page and on Comcast Channel 54. Meeting agendas are posted online the Friday preceding each board meeting. More information including agendas and minutes can be found at <https://eboard.dcsdk12.org/>.

DCSD Board Policies and Procedures

In 2019, the Douglas County School District Board of Education began a comprehensive review of all of its policies. Board policies have historically been updated on an as-needed basis. This is the first time a systematic approach will be used to ensure that policies match current district practices and are aligned with statutory requirements. The process will range from reviewing policies that haven't been updated in as long as 25 years, to creating and approving new policies as required by Colorado State Statute. All Board policies are available on our website at <https://www.dcsdk12.org/boardpolicies>.

Board Committees



District Accountability Committee

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) helps to collect feedback from School Accountability Committees and then advises the DCSD Board of

Education on district spending priorities, school improvement plans, parent engagement plans, and other priorities as directed by the Board of Education.



Mill Bond Ad-Hoc Oversight Committee

DCSD's Mill Bond Ad-Hoc Oversight Committee stays familiar with the 2018 Mill Levy Override (MLO) and Bond program and project list, monitors the

progress of the improvements and programs being implemented, and ensures MLO/Bond expenditures are in alignment with ballot language approved by voters.



Fiscal Oversight Committee

DCSD's Fiscal Oversight Committee (FOC) assists the Board of Education in fulfilling its fiscal oversight responsibilities. The FOC's

responsibilities include information gathering, fact-finding, and making recommendations in the areas of: Budget (Operating and Capital); Accounting, Audit, and Financial Reporting (Internal and External); Banking (Commercial and Investment); and other fiscal matters as assigned by the Board.



Student Advisory Group

The Student Advisory Group (SAG) serves as a focus group of high school students who provide input to the DCSD Board and staff about priorities for their education.



Long-Range Planning Committee

DCSD's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) studies school district sites, boundaries and capacity needs. This citizen-based group keeps

close track of new housing developments and student enrollment trends in order to provide the Douglas County School District Board of Education with feedback regarding school district facility and capacity needs. The LRPC also publishes the annual Master Capital Plan.



SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

New Families

Families new to Douglas County, or families with children entering school for the first time, **welcome to our school district!** School registration can be done at your assigned neighborhood school. If you're not sure which school your child should attend, you may enter your home address into the School Boundary Map located on our website (find the link on the Parent Resource Center page of our website at www.dcsdk12.org/prc). If you are unable to find your school on that map, please call us at 720-433-0095.

Be sure to bring the following, required documents when registering your child for school:

- Birth Certificate (State certified preferred)
- Immunization Records (Colorado Law)
- Proof of Residence (Warranty Deed, Deed of Trust, Property Tax Notice, Lease Agreement, County Assessor Page or Notarized Proof of Residency letter from the person you are living with (if your name doesn't appear on the proof of residency) along with a copy of their proof of residency.
- Transcript, Last Report Card or Withdrawal Form (whichever has the most current grade information).

Returning Families - Express Check-In

A few weeks prior to the start of the school year, returning families will receive an email from their school with instructions on how to conduct Express Check-In. Instead of manually entering information during registration, parents with returning students can save time with Express Check-In by updating household information, signing-off on district forms, updating health conditions and selecting school fees. Families can access Express Check-In by logging into the InspiredED parent portal (<https://engaged.dcsdk12.org>) using their Infinite Campus (IC) Parent Portal login and password. Once logged in, you will be presented with information for each of your students. Please complete the check-in process for each of your students individually.

The link to Express Check-In will also be posted on your school's website prior to the start of the new school year.

Problems logging in? Please view our FAQ's for Parent Accounts: <https://www.dcsdk12.org/faqs-for-parent-accounts>

Quick Reference Guide for Express Check-In: <https://goo.gl/xy4CN6>





Open Enrollment

DCSD embraces parent and student choice by offering a diverse range of pathways to learning, including neighborhood schools, charter, magnet, online schools, and home education options. Families who wish to open enroll in a school other than their assigned neighborhood school are welcome to do so, as long as their desired school has space available. Families may begin this process via DCSD's Open Enrollment process. Find more information on the Parent Resource Center page of our website at www.dcsdk12.org/prc.

Preschool

DCSD offers half-day preschool programs for children ages 3-5. Registration applications are accepted year round. Students who are age 3 on or before the first day of preschool (August 14, 2019) are eligible to register during the summer and begin school at the start of the school year. Students who turn 3 after September 1st are eligible to register three weeks before they turn 3 and begin school on their 3rd birthday. Students who are 5 years of age on or before October 1st are eligible for kindergarten and are not eligible for preschool that school year. We welcome students of all skill levels, including those that have special education needs. Through an inclusive preschool setting, the learning needs of all children are met in the most respectful and positive way. Tuition for DCSD preschool programs is as follows:

Two days per week (M/W or T/Th), AM or PM session: \$170 per month

Four days per week (M-Th), AM or PM session: \$340 per month

For more information, and to get started with preschool registration, visit the Parent Resource Center on our website at www.dcsdk12.org/prc.

Kindergarten

Free full-day kindergarten will be offered in DCSD beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. A registration packet can be downloaded from your school's website. To complete your child's registration, take their completed packet to your school. You will also need to provide your child's certificate of birth, immunization records and your proof of residence (Warranty Deed, Deed of Trust, Tax Notice, Lease Agreement, Assessor Page, Notarized Letter from the person you are living with if you are living with someone and your name doesn't appear on the proof of residency. A copy of their Proof of Residency must also be given at enrollment). The deadline for Kindergarten enrollment is June 1 prior to the start of the school year. More information is available in our Parent Resource Center at www.dcsdk12.org/prc.

STUDENT FEES

Douglas County School District supplies its students with textbooks and instructional materials necessary for successful completion of courses of study as part of our school district's instructional program.

Students participating in enrichment activities which are not required may be assessed charges necessary to cover expenses such as admission fees, food costs, and transportation costs. Students may also be required to pay the costs of materials for projects in specified classes.

Waiver of Fees

Students who meet eligibility requirements set by federal poverty income guidelines will have their fees waived. These guidelines include those students on free and reduced-price meals (including homeless and foster students). In order to have fees waived, families will need to complete an application. DCSD staff make every effort to ensure no student is denied the right to participate in any school activity because of lack of funds.

Payment of Fees

School fees can be paid via DCSD's online payment system - MySchoolBucks. Families will be directed to MySchoolBucks during the Express Check-In process at the beginning of each school year. Quick Reference for MySchoolBucks Payment System:

<https://goo.gl/Qi12ob>



REPORTING CONCERNS AND GRIEVANCES

As a parent, one of the most important things you can do for your child's education is to develop relationships with the people in your child's academic life. This includes teachers, principals, your child's friends and their parents. If you have strong, positive relationships with all of these people, you will be better prepared to meet the challenges and address the needs that arise in your student's life. Having a positive relationship and open method of communication with this important network of professionals and people will be beneficial to you and your student.

We recognize the importance of being your child's advocate. Here are guidelines to help you work through any concerns that may arise during the school year.

Proper Channeling of Concerns/Grievances

The Board of Education believes that concerns and grievances are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible, as per DCSD Board of Education Policy. Therefore, the proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline, or learning materials should be as follows (contact information can be found on page 21).



Tips for Conflict Management

Conflict management works best if all parties:

- Engage in active listening
- Problem solve by focusing on the problem, not the person
- Set clear expectations and goals
- Follow up, as necessary
- Participate in good faith and be committed to the process

Setting up an Appointment

If you would like to voice a concern in person, it is strongly recommended that you set up an appointment. This helps ensure that staff is available and that your concern can be fully discussed. School staff can sometimes accommodate walk-ins depending on the severity of the issue, but teachers and administrators request scheduled appointments.

To set an appointment with a teacher, please contact the teacher directly. Generally, the best times to meet with a teacher are before and after school.

To set an appointment with the principal or assistant principal, please contact the office staff.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Special Education

When parents have concerns about their child's progress, the first step is to talk with their student's teacher(s) or school counselor. The school team will work with parents to determine what intervention(s) can be employed to address the concern. If the concern about a child's progress persists after interventions have been in place, the parent or school team may request a referral for special education. Parents are important members of the referral team.

The Douglas County School District is committed to providing support services to our students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. DCSD provides a continuum of services to best meet

the unique needs of all learners. More information about special education and personalized learning services provided by our school district can be found on our website at www.dcsdk12.org (select "Special Education" or "Personalized Learning" from the A-Z menu).

Child Find

Child Find is part of DCSD's Special Education program. We act as a resource for families who are residents of Douglas County. Our Child Find teams offer developmental assessments at no charge to young children from birth through age five. Child Find teams include multi-disciplinary

specialists. Teams work with children and their families and conduct screenings and/or evaluations to determine eligibility for services.

Children ages birth to three who demonstrate a significant delay in development may be eligible for services through Developmental Pathways, a non-profit agency.

Children ages three up to age five are assessed to determine if they are eligible for special education services through the DCSD Early Childhood Preschool program. Contact our Child Find Coordinator at 720-433-0020 -- or speak with your child's pediatrician for more information.



During an emergency, DCSD has standardized vocabulary for students, staff and first responders



Lockout

Secure the Perimeter

- Threat or hazard is **outside** the building
- Everyone is brought inside
- Doors are locked
- Learning continues indoors

Example: Wildlife in the area



Lockdown

Locks, Lights, Out of Sight

- Threat or hazard is **inside** the building
- Doors are locked
- Lights are turned off
- Everyone is silent

Example: Active shooter



Evacuate

To the Announced Location

- Students leave personal items behind
- Students are moved from one location to another

Example: Chemical spill inside the school



Shelter

For a Hazard Using a Safety Strategy

- There is a need for personal protection
- Specific instructions are shared with students

Example: Tornado



Be Informed - Connect With Us!

Confirmed information will be shared with impacted families as soon as possible. Sign up for phone, text and email alerts in Parent Portal or through your school's registrar.

Anonymous Report Concerns

Safe2Tell: 1-877-542-7233

Text-A-Tip: tinyurl.com/dcsd-text-a-tip

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Standard Response Protocol

The Douglas County School District is committed to providing information to families as soon as possible. During an emergency, having a unified plan and shared vocabulary for students, staff and first responders is paramount. That is why we use the Standard Response Protocol (SRP).

Lockout - Secure the Perimeter

If there is a threat outside the building, everyone is brought inside the building and the doors are locked. A Lockout could be the response to an incident in the community near your school. Teachers, staff or administration will get students back into the building. Lockout means an increased situational awareness, but learning and activities continue.

Lockdown - Lock, Lights, Out of Sight

This is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students quiet and in place. Teachers will lock classroom doors and turn off all lights. In addition, teachers and students will move away from corridor line of sight and maintain silence. Occupants of rooms will not unlock their rooms for anything or anyone. When the incident is over, a responsible person capable of unlocking the room from out in the hall (law enforcement, school administrator, etc.) will unlock the door and brief the occupants.

Shelter - Follow the Directions

The SRP gives specific instructions within the action. For example, instead of just announcing “shelter,” the command may be “shelter for tornado: drop, cover and hold.” The command will be to shelter, what we are sheltering from and the specific self-protection action to do.

Evacuate - Follow the Directions

This involves moving students in an orderly fashion from point A to point B. Evacuate is always followed by a location. For example, the command may be “evacuate to the gym.” The order to evacuate will always be followed by a location. Administrators, teachers and building staff work together to quickly, quietly and safely evacuate students to the evacuation point. Students and staff will leave all items (backpacks, books, etc.) behind.





What to Do During an Emergency

The natural instinct for parents is to come to the school during an emergency to protect their children. However, by doing so, they may endanger themselves and their children. Law enforcement and school personnel are busy responding to the situation. Your arrival or calls may distract them from their work. Please help by following the steps below.

Stay Home

The most important contribution you can make to your student and your own safety may be staying away from the school.

Stay Informed

Remember that accurate information may take some time to verify and share. We work as quickly as possible to update you during an emergency.

Be Ready

Under certain circumstances, you may need to pick up your child after an emergency. When reunification is activated, we will inform you about where and when to connect with your child. Please remember to bring photo identification.

How to Receive Emergency Communications

If there is an emergency at your child's school (Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuation, Shelter, etc.) we will send information to all contacts in our system via phone, text and email. We want to ensure DCSD parents receive the emergency alerts most important to them.

What if I didn't receive the alerts I want?

Log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (campus.dcsdk12.org) and click on "More" in the left-hand column. Navigate to "Family Information" and review your contact information. If you see an incorrect phone number or email, please update it in Infinite Campus, or contact the registrar at your child's school to request an update.

If you previously opted out and would like to opt in, text "YES" to 68453.

I received everything except a text message. How can I fix this?

You must select to receive text messages from our system. Confirm that you have selected to receive text messaging (SMS) for emergency and/or school notifications through Infinite Campus Parent Portal. What phone number will my caller ID show when I get calls?

When you receive communication from the DCSD SchoolMessenger system, the number displayed will depend on the type of message. The two types of communication include:

Emergency Notifications (critical communications)

855-695-9448 (you may wish to add this number to your contacts)

Standard Notifications (lunch balance, event reminders, general communication)

877-279-4061 (you may wish to add this number to your contacts)

How to Report Safety Concerns

If you are concerned about safety at your child's school, it is recommended that you first start by speaking with the school leader such as the Principal. If you still have questions after that conversation, please call the DCSD Safety & Security Department at 303-387-0377.

For emergencies, contact 911 immediately and then call the DCSD Dispatch Center.

DCSD Security Dispatch Center (24/7) - 303-387-0999

The DCSD Security Dispatch Center serves as the primary point of contact for staff, DCSD stakeholders and outside agencies during and after normal business hours. It is staffed 24-hours a day and is a liaison for multiple law enforcement agencies and has the ability to grant access to all facilities remotely in the event of an emergency.

The DCSD Security Dispatch Center also manages critical operations for the District including, Text-A-Tip, district-wide emergency notifications, security/transportation radio dispatching, alarm monitoring and video surveillance.

Text-A-Tip

In partnership with the law enforcement agencies of Douglas County, DCSD high school students can send an anonymous crime tip via a text message from their cell phone. The tips are completely secure and anonymous. tinyurl.com/dcsd/text-a-tip/

Safe2Tell

Safe2Tell provides young people a way to report any threatening behaviors or activities endangering themselves or someone they know, in a way that keeps them safe and anonymous. <https://safe2tell.org/>

WEATHER DELAYS AND CLOSURES

We take the safety of our students, staff, parents and community members seriously. Our district is huge - spanning 850+ square miles, and conditions can vary from one region to another.

Because many of our families and staff travel across the school district, any weather delay or closure will apply to the entire school district (unless otherwise indicated).

The decision to close, delay or keep a school open during inclement weather is never taken lightly. We always keep the safety of our students, staff and parents top of mind. Factors including snowfall, wind chill, road conditions and more are all taken into consideration.

When a Snowstorm is Approaching

By far, the biggest reason for school delays/closures in Colorado is snowstorms. The DCSD Snow Team is dedicated to monitoring incoming storms, assessing whether a delay or closure is warranted and communicating the decision to our stakeholders and the public.

When School Remains Open

During Colorado winters, snow and ice are to be expected. We encourage everyone within Douglas County to drive safely.

Those who do not feel comfortable driving in winter conditions or are inexperienced should consider alternate transportation options. As always, on days where DCSD's Snow Team was activated and a delay or closure was not implemented, we respect our parents' decisions to keep their students home, if necessary. This will be an excused absence.

When There is a 90-Minute Delay

When DCSD is on a 90-minute delay, all schools begin 90-minutes after regular start times. Bus routes are also delayed by 90-minutes, so students should plan to be picked up one and a half hours later than normal. DCSD before school care (BASE) also begins 90-minutes later than normal. During a delay, morning preschool and kindergarten programs are canceled. Full-day preschool and kindergarten programs operate on a 90-minute delay. Dismissal times remain the same.

When There is a Closure

When DCSD is closed due to weather conditions, all schools and buildings are closed, and any scheduled activities are cancelled. This includes closure of Before and After School Enterprise (BASE) programs and any facility rentals scheduled for the day of a DCSD weather-related closure.

Where are Delays and Closures Posted?

In the event of a delay or closure, the information will be posted on the top of the DCSD website. We will also post updates on the DCSD Facebook and Twitter accounts, the DCSD mobile app and on local media outlets.





TRANSPORTATION (ZPasses)

School bus service is generally available for elementary school students who live more than one mile from their assigned neighborhood school, and secondary school students who live more than two miles from their assigned neighborhood school. There is a cost of 0.50 cents per ride (each way), which is billed to parents on a quarterly basis, or parents can choose to prepay for annual ride service for \$150. Each student who rides a DCSD school bus must have a ZPass card which can be obtained during the Express Check-In process prior to the beginning of each school year. Parents can also order a ZPass at any time during the school year via the Parent Portal at www.engaged.dcsdk12.org.

Transportation fees are waived for students with an Individual Education Program (IEP) that includes transportation services.

NUTRITION SERVICES

DCSD Nutrition Services is committed to providing the highest quality meals for your child. We work to create an environment where your child can learn to make healthy decisions that lead to a healthy lifestyle. We provide approximately 30,000 nutritious meals every day to students and staff. We participate in the National School Lunch Program and the National Breakfast Program at select sites.

School meals are important to your child because they help develop sound nutritional habits by exposing students to a variety of foods. We offer many food choices and provide healthful fruits and vegetables daily. In addition, the well-nourished student has better attendance, is more attentive, better behaved and has an increased energy level. All of these elements are tied to academic success.

Applying for Free or Reduced Lunch

Families who wish to apply for free or reduced price lunches under the National School Lunch Program must submit a new application at the beginning of each school year. The application is available online at www.myschoolapps.com. Please allow at least 10 days from the time the application is received by our school district for processing.

Food Allergy Accommodations

DCSD dietitians work with families to develop special diets when it is medically necessary for the student. If your child has a food allergy or intolerance that requires accommodation outside of the daily lunch menu, please contact the following staff members at Menu Services.

Amy Faricy, Menu Services Manager and Dietitian

amy.faricy@dcsdk12.org
(303) 387-0301

Tara Gonzales, Area Manager and Dietitian

tgonzales@dcsdk12.org



ATHLETICS

Athletics is an amazing way for students to learn. The lessons taught by sports make our kids more resilient, collaborative and healthy. The field, track, gym and weight room offer daily opportunities for kids to learn 21st-century skills, which makes them better students in the classroom and more prepared for whichever college or career they choose in the future. All student-athletes are students first. Participation in sports is a privilege -- we expect all of our student-athletes to abide by the academic and athletic rules set by their schools and the organizations we are affiliated with.

Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA)

All Douglas County high schools are members of the Colorado High School Activities Association and are bound to all rules and regulations required of CHSAA and the school league.



League Affiliations

All Douglas County high schools belong to the Continental League for all sports and activities, except football.

Football:

- Ponderosa: 4A Metro Conference
- Chaparral, Douglas County, Legend: 5A South Conference
- Castle View, Highlands Ranch, Mountain Vista, Rock Canyon, ThunderRidge: 5A Metro South Conference

Athletic Registration

Prior to participating in camps and practices, students and parents must complete the online registration process at their middle or high school. During the registration process student's eligibility for participation in sports is evaluated.



PARENT PORTAL

Parent Technology Support

Parents can find support pages for all Technology tools by selecting "Information Technology" from the A-Z menu on the DCSD website, then clicking "Parent & Staff IT Resources," then "Parents KnowIT." Support information on DCSD Campus Portal, SchoolMessenger, Express Check-In, Google apps for students, personally-owned devices, tech learning opportunities, and student online safety can be found here.

Infinite Campus

DCSD uses Infinite Campus (IC) to store student data and provide communications to parents. Parents and students (Grades 5 and up) also have online access to student information through the Infinite Campus portal.

With IC Portal access, parents and students may monitor grades, assignments and their due dates, attendance, district news, and other important information about student classes.

For information on how to set up or access your IC Portal account, please visit the IC Portal Info page on your school's website.

Infinite Campus Mobile Portal Apps: Campus Student and Campus Parent

Infinite Campus has two new and improved mobile apps: Campus Student (for students) and Campus Parent (for parents). Download these free apps for real-time access to grades, assignments, attendance, schedules, announcements and more.

Infinite Campus - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I request access to the parent portal?

Contact your school's registrar.

What if my contact information is missing or wrong?

Please input your correct contact information in Infinite Campus, or contact your school's registrar for assistance.

Who do I contact if my account is disabled or I need my password reset?

If you have forgotten your username and/or password or have been locked out of your account, please contact your school's registrar, or call our I.T. Help Desk at 303-387-0001. For security purposes, your account will be disabled after five unsuccessful login attempts.



STAY CONNECTED



DCSD Website

Alerts posted on our homepage. You can also sign up for parent portal and newsletters from our website.

www.dcsdk12.org/communications



Mobile App



Your one-stop-shop for both school and district news, alerts, events, staff directories, and more.

www.dcsdk12.org/dcsd-app

"Purpose" Newsletter

"Purpose" is Douglas County School District's monthly newsletter for families and the community.

Social Media Channels



GET INVOLVED

Share Your School's Good News Stories

We know that there are great things going on in our schools every day. Help us to celebrate the achievements of our students, teachers, and staff with the Douglas County community! Email story ideas to communications@dcsdk12.org or tag us in social media posts about your school (@DCSDK12).

School Accountability Committees

Each DCSD school has a School Accountability Committee (SAC). The SAC is a committee that advises the principal on school performance, budget priorities and parental engagement. Contact your child's principal for information on how to serve on your school's SAC.

Parent University

DCSD partners with SkyRidge Medical Center to offer Parent University. Parent University classes provide parents and families with resources and training in areas such as safety, life skills, prevention, etc. Families receive tools they can use to encourage their children to become successful, and to become effective advocates for their students.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In Douglas County School District, we know that working in education is more than a job – it's a calling. Every day our dedicated team of educators guide our community's future leaders by encouraging them to ask questions, explore new ideas and solve problems. Our school leaders and staff put students first in everything they do and work hard to ensure that our educators have the tools they need to ensure that each and every student receives the best education possible. From our school principals and licensed teachers, to our nutrition services staff and bus drivers, each and every employee touches the lives of students and every employee contributes to their success.

The Douglas County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, genetic information, or physical characteristics, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment of, or employment in educational programs or activities. Learn more about current job opportunities, and apply at www.dcsdk12.org/careers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I.T. Help Desk (Parent Portal Support)

Information Technology (I.T.) - 303-387-0001

Ordering Transcripts

Student Data - 720-433-0095

Open Enrollment

Choice Programming - 303-387-9506

Special Education or Gifted and Talented

Personalized Learning - 303-387-0077

School Buses and ZPasses

Transportation - 303-387-0415

Early Childhood Education / Preschool

Early Childhood Education - 720-433-0025

Child Find - 720-433-0020

Before and After School Care

B.A.S.E. - 720-433-1100

Facility Rentals

720-433-1112

Human Resources / Careers

720-433-0140

Maintenance and Grounds

Operations & Maintenance - 303-387-0400

Nutrition Services

303-387-0306

Preschool Information Line

720-433-0025

Safety and Security

303-387-0377

Security Dispatch (24 hours) - 303-387-9999

Reporting Anonymous Safety / Security Tips and Information

Safe2Tell

1-877-542-7233

<https://safe2tell.org/>

Text-A-Tip

tinyurl.com/dcsd-text-a-tip

Executive Directors of Schools

Castle Rock Region

Castle View and Douglas County Feeders
Danelle Hiatt, Executive Director of Schools
303-387-0012

East Highlands Ranch Region

Highlands Ranch and Rock Canyon Feeders
Corey Wise, Executive Director of Schools
303-387-0012

West Highlands Ranch Region

Mountain Vista and ThunderRidge Feeders
Ian Wells, Executive Director of Schools
303-387-0012

Parker Region

Chaparral, Legend and Ponderosa Feeders
Carrie Stephenson, Executive Director of Schools
303-387-0012

Activities, Athletics and Alternative Education

Derek Chaney,
Director of Activities, Athletics and Alternative Education
303-387-0095

Assistant Superintendent

Ted Knight, Assistant Superintendent
Kelly DeVol, Administrative Assistant
303-387-0067

Superintendent's Office

Thomas S. Tucker, Ph.D., Superintendent
Dorinda Hedin, Administrative Assistant
303-387-0123

Board of Education

Tammy Taylor, Board of Education Assistant Secretary
303-387-0258

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

2e..... Twice Exceptional
504 Plan Disability Accommodation Plan

A

AA..... American Academy
ACAD Ascent Classical Academy
ACS Academy Charter School
ADD/ADHD Attention Deficit Disorder /
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Admin..... Wilcox Building
AEC Alternate Education Campus
AESOP..... Substitute Placement and
Absent Management System
AGE Acres Green Elementary
ALP Advanced Learning Plan
AP Advanced Placement
AP Assistant Principal
APD..... Auditory Processing Disorder
APR..... Annual Performance Report
ASD..... Autism Spectrum Disorder
ATU Amalgamated Transit Union
AVA Aspen View Academy
AVID Advancement via Individual Determination
AWE Arrowwood Elementary

B

BAS Balanced Assessment System
BASE..... Before and After School Enterprise
BCE..... Bear Canyon Elementary
BES..... Business Education and Support
BFA..... Ben Franklin Academy
BFB..... Beginning Fund Balance
BFR..... Budgeting for Results
BLT Building Leadership Team
BOCES..... Board of Cooperative Educational Services
BoE..... Board of Education
BRE..... Buffalo Ridge Elementary
BRT..... Building Resource Teacher

C

C2E..... Challenge to Excellence Charter School
CA..... Change Agent

CAG Curriculum Advisory Group
CAFR Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
CART Charter Application Review Team
CAS Colorado Academic Standards
CCE Coyote Creek Elementary
CDE..... Colorado Department of Education
CHS..... Chaparral High School
CHSAA..... Colorado High School Athletics and Activities
CIL Curriculum and Instruction Leader
CIMS..... Cimarron Middle School
CITE..... Continuous Improvement of Teacher Effectiveness
(teacher evaluation standards)
CMAS Colorado Measures of Academic Success
CME Copper Mesa Elementary
CMS Cresthill Middle School
CoGAT..... Cognitive Abilities Test
COP Certificates of Participation
CORA..... Colorado Open Records Act
CPD..... Center for Professional Development
CPI..... Consumer Price Index
CQI Continuous Quality Improvement
CRE..... Castle Rock Elementary
CRMS Castle Rock Middle School
CRS..... Colorado Revised Statutes
CRT Computer Resource Teacher
CRUN Cougar Run Elementary
CSAP..... Colorado School Assessment Program
CSE..... Clear Sky Elementary
CTE..... Career and Technical Education
CTE..... Cherokee Trail Elementary
CVE Cherry Valley Elementary
CVHS Castle View High School

D

DAC District Accountability Committee
DARE Data, Accountability, Reporting and Evaluation
DCAGT..... Douglas County Association for Gifted and Talented
DCEF Douglas County Educational Foundation
DCHS..... Douglas County High School
DCH-South Douglas County High School South Annex
DCO Daniel C. Oakes High School

DCSD..... Douglas County School District
DCSM..... DCS Montessori School
DCSEAC..... Douglas County Special Education
Advisory Committee
DLMC..... District Library Media Center
DPF District Performance Frameworks
DRA Developmental Reading Assessment

E

EA Eagle Academy
EA Educational Assistant
ECC Early Childhood Center
ECE..... Early Childhood Education
eDCSD Douglas County School District Online School
EDOS Executive Directors of Schools
EE..... Eldorado Elementary
EL..... Expeditionary Learning
ELL English Language Learners
ELPA English Language Proficiency Act
EPR..... Elementary Progress Report
ERE Eagle Ridge Elementary
ESL English as a Second Language
ESSA Every Student Succeeds Act

F

FCE..... Fox Creek Elementary
FE..... Franktown Elementary
FEEDER..... A group of schools; elementary, middle and high,
that serve the same geographic area
FERPA..... Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
FOC..... Fiscal Oversight Committee
FSCP Family School Community Partnerships
FSE Flagstone Elementary
FTE Full Time Equivalent
FVE..... Frontier Valley Elementary

G

GRE Gold Rush Elementary
GT Gifted and Talented
GVA..... Global Village Academy

H

HE..... Heritage Elementary
HOPE..... HOPE Online Learning Academy
HR..... Human Resources

HRHS..... Highlands Ranch High School

I

I & D Innovation and Development
IC..... Infinite Campus (records system, attendance,
grading)
IDC Innovation & Design Center
IDEA..... Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP Individualized Education Plan
IHE..... Iron Horse Elementary
ILP Individual Literacy Plan
InspirED Innovation.... DCSD's integrated suite of web-based software
tools to assist teachers and leaders
IT Information Technology

L

LCA Leman Classical Academy
LE..... Larkspur Elementary
LEAD Leadership Effectiveness through Analysis and Data
LEP Limited English Proficient
LHS..... Legend High School
LPE Legacy Point Elementary
LRPC..... Long Range Planning Committee
LSS Learning Support Services
LTE..... Lone Tree Elementary

M

MAP Measure of Academic Progress (interim assessment)
MBOC Mill Bond Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee
MDVE..... Meadow View Elementary
MHE..... Mammoth Heights Elementary
MMS Mesa Middle School
MRMS Mountain Ridge Middle School
MTSS Multi-Tiered System of Supports
MVE Mountain View Elementary
MVHS Mountain Vista High School

N

NE..... Northeast Elementary
NRE Northridge Elementary
NSA..... North Star Academy

O

O&M Operations and Maintenance

P

PARCC..... Partnership for Assessment of Readiness
for College and Careers

PBL..... Project Based Learning
 PCA..... Plum Creek Academy
 PCE..... Prairie Crossing Elementary
 PCK..... Parker Core Knowledge Charter School
 PD..... Professional Development
 PDPA Public Deposit Protection Act
 PE Pioneer Elementary
 PERA..... Public Employees' Retirement Association
 PGE..... Pine Grove Elementary
 PGI..... Professional Growth Incentive
 PHS Ponderosa High School
 PLC..... Professional Learning Communities
 PLE..... Pine Lane Elementary
 PLS Professional Learning Specialist
 PPA..... Parker Performing Arts
 PPR..... Per Pupil Allocation
 PRA..... Platte River Academy

R

RCHS Rock Canyon High School
 READ Act Colorado READ Act
 REMS..... Renaissance Expeditionary Learning Outward
 Bound Magnet School
 RHMS Rocky Heights Middle School
 RMSEL..... Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning
 RRE..... Rock Ridge Elementary
 RSE Redstone Elementary
 Rtl..... Response to Intervention
 RVMS..... Ranch View Middle School
 RXI..... Roxborough Intermediate School
 RXP Roxborough Primary School

S

SAC School Accountability Committee
 SACPIE..... State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement
 in Education
 SAG..... Student Advisory Group
 SAT Scholastic Achievement Test
 SBB Site Based Budget / School Based Budget
 SCE..... Sand Creek Elementary
 SEDE..... Sedalia Elementary
 SGCE..... Sage Canyon Elementary
 SGMS Sagewood Middle School
 SHE Soaring Hawk Elementary

SIP School Improvement Plan
 SMS..... Sierra Middle School
 SOE South Ridge Elementary
 SPED..... Special Education
 SPF School Performance Frameworks
 SSN Significant Support Needs
 SRE..... Saddle Ranch Elementary
 SRO School Resource Officer
 SRP..... Standard Response Protocol
 STEAM..... Science Technology Engineering Art + Design Math
 STEM Science Technology Engineering Math
 STME Stone Mountain Elementary
 SVA..... SkyView Academy
 SVE..... Summit View Elementary

T

TBE..... Trailblazer Elementary
 TLCC Teaching and Learning Conditions in Colorado
 TRHS ThunderRidge High School
 TTE..... Timber Trail Elementary

U

UIP..... Unified Improvement Planning

W

WCA World Compass Academy
 WME..... Wildcat Mountain Elementary

Y

Y.E.S.S..... Youth, Education and Safety in Schools

Z

ZPass School Bus Pass